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Instant Kill

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Chapter 1: The Innate Fu Orb

Li Ran explained, “This is an Ancient Fu of Teleportation, so even though it’s here, it is still very precious because it is a type of Auxiliary-type Ancient Fu that is rarely seen, as such it’s far more precious than Attack-type Ancient Fu.”

“Teleportation!”

Luo Jie was very wise, but not even he had seen this type of Ancient Fu before, since it allowed teleportation, if you were surrounded in battle, you could easily teleport away to safety. To a FuZhou Warrior, this was a priceless artefact. As such he let out a hearty laugh and said, “12th, your luck is amazing!”

12th smiled bitterly and said, “Luck’s not as good as athlete’s foot.....” He sighed and continued, “Master, you got a pretty good Ancient Fu, but your disciple is still striving for one.”

Li Ran smiled as he put away all of the Ancient Fu that were on the marble table. He said, “Luck isn’t as good as athlete’s foot? Haha, then why didn’t you use your feet to choose? Haha.....”

12th mumbled, “I scratched my feet before hand.....”

Li Ran choked at that, coughing, he said, “You little kid..... Heh, you got quite the audacity haven’t you?”

(T/N: Now that the entire joke has finished, lemme explain cuz you are probably confused af. The characters 手气 and 脚气 mean ‘Luck’ and

‘Athlete’s Foot’ respectively. The joke here is that individually the characters would literally mean ‘Hand Air’ and ‘Foot Air’ so 12th made a joke with play on words, or at least the mandarin equivalent of play on words. The joke later about him scratching his feet is him saying “well I scratched my feet (with athlete’s foot) beforehand which is why luck isn’t as good as athlete’s foot. Now obviously he doesn’t *actually* have athlete’s foot, he was just simply extending the joke. Or maybe he does have it, I don’t know. This world is crazy :D)

12th remembered, “Oh yeah, what’s the Fu Door like?”

Li Ran said, “That’s right, I almost forgot..... These are two Spirit Fu of Fu Doors, each Fu can take up to four people into the Mysterious Lands, and this is a book on how to use the Fu Door, it’s quite easy to learn.”

“Oh, and before I forget, each Fu Door can record up to four Mysterious Lands. Only four though and if you try to record a fifth one, it will delete the first one. So choose carefully.”

12th snatched up one of the Fu Door’s Spirit Fu and also the book. It was quite a thin book; there only seemed to be about twenty or so pages and the words were also quite big. It only took 12th 10 minutes to finish. Indeed it was quite easy, the ability to use FuZhou powers was the only requirement for using it.

Luo Jie learnt quickly. He only flicked through the book briefly and instantly understood how the Fu Door worked. He immediately absorbed the Fu Door’s Spirit Fu into his Innate Fu Book. This time the exploration of the Mysterious Lands yielded rewards beyond what was expected, and as such he was very content.

Xiao Feng returned and following behind him was Chen Hong and not only was she carrying the Hidden Fu Bag with the tools, but also the Hidden Fu Bag holding food, and in it was also the meat from the Fu Bear, along the Earth Dragon's various internal organs and flesh.

“Brother Li, Master, Grandpa Nan Shan, you guys wait while I go prepare the food.” 12th said as he ran out. In his past life he frequently drove past a small shop, and had also learnt how to cook, although not as good as a professional chef, he still knew quite a few ways to cook food.

Li Ran called out, “Oi, kid! Wash your hands first! Don't go scratching your foot again!”

12th tripped and stumbling, he ran out as he murmured, “Had I really scratched my feet, I might have chosen an even better Ancient Fu!”

To obtain a good Innate Fu from Li Ran, he decided to make his specialty. It was no wonder that 12th was nervous, he didn't know what type of person Li Ran is, he also didn't know how strong Li Ran really was. Seeing him reveal so many Ancient Fu indicated that he would not be easy to please, if he didn't do his best now, it'll be too late to regret it later.

Luo Jie cautiously asked, “Li Ran..... What do you do?”

Li Ran spoke loudly, “What do I do? Well, I'm a retired..... businessman, I don't really *do* much at all anymore.” After he finished, he smiled baring his teeth. Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan both stared at him, not knowing what to say, this answer was so obviously fake but they

couldn't refute it.

The two of them could see Li Ran's confidence so even though his words were carefree and calm, and without any malice or insult, it was instead quite inspiring. The two of them were old and wise, but they still couldn't believe how confident he was.

Li Ran was too mysterious, not only did he make Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan uneasy and slightly fearful, it made it hard to communicate as they were unsure how to word their sentences. Li Ran noticed that the two of them were unnerved, but he still didn't give any sort of explanation, only chatting about anything and everything. This made them two feel rather out of place, as they hadn't even heard of a lot of the things before.

After about half an hour, a delicious smell wafted in, Li Ran sniffed a little and said, "Huh, this smell..... it..... it's sweet and sour pork ribs?! And what is this smell?" He couldn't help but stand up and walked to the doorway to have a look.

Luo Jie also sniffed the air and asked, "When did 12th learn to cook Fu Food?"

Qi Nan Shan shook his head and replied, "I don't know either, but this smells good..... so good that it's actually making me rather hungry!" Being a Great Fu Master meant that he barely needed to eat, and yet this smell made him feel hungry.

"Brother Li, wait inside, it's almost done."

Li Ran smiled and returned to his seat, saying, “Your disciple..... has a good chance of winning that Innate Fu, haha.”

Chen Hong brought in a large bronze bowl, “12th said these are Sweet ‘n’ Sour Ribs!”

Li Ran waved over at a large table and said, “Put it here!”

It was a giant bowl filled to the brim with ribs, although these ribs were somewhat large, each one was like the size of a club. Li Ran immediately grabbed one and started gnawing at it, gleefully saying, “Not bad, this taste is great! Good! Good!”

The next dish was Stir Fried Stomach. The stomach was the Fu Bear’s and it was stir fried with garlic for a very aromatic dish.

A few more dishes followed, enough for a feast. The last dish was Braised Bear Paw and though it looked quite simple, the ingredients used were hard to get. Chen Hong sneaked some into her mouth while 12th was cooking. She had never had such delicious food before, as such she felt a lot of admiration towards 12th.

After they finished, 12th watched Li Ran expectantly.

Li Ran couldn’t help but laugh, saying, “Why are you staring at me? It’s not like I’m a supermodel!”

12th furrowed his brows, and thought, *That’s too cruel, no way can this guy scam me out of this!* So he asked, “How was it?”

Li Ran nodded and said honestly, “It was good, the others were mediocre, but those Sweet ‘n’ Sour Ribs was delicious!”

12th said, “So what about my Innate Fu.....?”

“About what Innate Fu?”

“Unbelievable.....”

Li Ran laughed aloud, saying, “Alright alright, I’m just teasing you, here.....” He lifted his hand and placed it on 12th’s forehead, saying, “Don’t move!” as a green light emanated from his hand into 12th’s head. He said, “Count yourself lucky that I just so happen to have a True Spirit Fu on me, haha, it’s one of the best Innate Fu Books in existence.

“A True Sprit Fu?”

Now Luo Jie pretty much understood Li Ran’s categories for Fu. The weakest were Treasure Fu, Spirit Fu were mediocre and Ancient Fu were pretty high level, however, True Treasure Fu were truly superior. As for True Spirit Fu, since Li Ran had one, it too must be a very powerful and valuable Fu.

Li Ran explained, “This True Spirit Fu isn’t very useful for me for it’s not an Attack-type Fu nor is it a standard Auxiliary-type Fu, it is in fact a Fu used for crafting Innate Fu Books, and as such it is called a True Innate Fu because it can create an Innate Fu Orb, haha, it’s a little different to your Innate Fu Books.”

Luo Jie exclaimed, “Innate Fu Orb? This is the first time I’ve heard of such a form of Innate Fu.”

Li Ran nodded, explaining, “Innate Fu Orbs are the forms of superior Innate Fu, it’s better than the Innate Fu Books and uses Fu from it is faster. It’s a special form of Innate Fu where I come from, it’s like this.....” and he held out a finger and tapped the air.

A clear image appeared in front of them all.

It started with a bead of light, and then rapidly expanded to a sphere the size of a basketball. It consisted of countless small Fu. The sphere span rapidly and a Fu floated out, quickly enlarged, and then retracted back into the orb as another one came out and likewise returned into the orb. It really was quite beautiful to watch.

Li Ran brought his finger down and the orb disappeared.

Luo Jie saw the beauty of it, saying, “Amazing form.” He sighed and said, “Why can’t we think of Innate Fu like this?”

12th was beyond happy, he understood better than even Luo Jie about the usefulness of this form. Luo Jie’s Innate Fu Book was two dimensional, whereas the Innate Fu Orb was three dimensional, these were two completely different concepts. It meant that the Innate Fu from where Li Ran came from were far superior to the ones at the North Fu Sect, and their understanding of it was probably better too.

Li Ran said, “Little guy, I’ve already put the True Spirit Fu into your body so you’ll have to search for an Innate Fu yourself, haha, it might take you ten years..... by that time you should be able to advance, though, it might take even longer than that..... Well whenever you find one, you’ll be able to advance, with this True Spirit Fu, as long as you have enough FuZhou power, you’ll be able to advance. Are you content, boy?”

12th thought this was too good to be true, he said, “One meal..... can get me a True Spirit Fu. Hey Brother Li, heh, are you by chance in need of a chef?”

Li Ran smiled and said, “You’re kidding right?”

12th immediately said in all honesty, “Brother Li, tell me what else you want me to do, there’s just one condition, it has to be something that I can manage, or else even if I agreed it would be pointless.”

Li Ran said, “You really are quite a smart little kid!”

Luo Jie said, “Mister Li, thank you for your generosity.” This was genuine gratitude, he sounded very sincere.

Li Ran shook his head saying, “No need to thank me, this is an exchange between me and your disciple. 12th, bring the Fu Door over.”

12th brought out his Fu Door and handed it over. He only saw Li Ran brush his finger over the face of the Fu. Li Ran then returned it to 12th saying, “12th, I’ve recorded a location on your Fu Door, when you..... Yes,

when you advance to Great FuZhou Master..... that should be right, it's the level your Master is at, I hope that you can go to this place at some point in time for I'll need your help."

12th knew that there were going to be strings attached to this seemingly free True Spirit Fu, if one meal could really trade for a Fu as precious as this, then this world would be crazy beyond belief. He answered, "No problem, Brother Li. So how do I find an Innate Fu?"

Li Ran smiled, "You must search yourself, I can't help you. You have natural talent meaning it should only take you ten years to advance, by that time your Innate Fu will naturally appear..... Oh, and also, ten years is enough time for this True Spirit Fu to completely assimilate into your body."

12th lowered his head without saying anything, as he closed his eyes and had a look deep inside his soul, he was both surprised and happy to find a light floating within his soul. Could this be the True Spirit Fu? How would it manifest itself?

(**T/N:** The author wrote here: "The next part will leave you speechless.")

Pale green mist wafted out from 12th's face and moments later it formed a small Fu Orb; it was only the size of a thumb that emanated clear, crisp light floating at the tip of his nose. 12th's eyes were closed as if he were meditating.

Li Ran was so startled that he exclaimed, "Son of a bitch..... That's not possible!"

12th suddenly opened his eyes and that little ball of Fu dissipated into

a stream of green light and went back into him. Confused, he asked, “Brother Li, what’s wrong? What’s not possible?”

12th didn’t understand what was happening, but everyone present were all powerful people, and they all knew what this meant. This meant that 12th already had his Innate Fu, even though he was only nine years old, which is why it was so unbelievable.

Li Ran asked, “12th, how old are you? Are you really only nine years old?”

Luo Jie smiled bitterly saying, “Sometimes..... I also doubted that, but I know that he is indeed only nine years old, in that there is no doubt, haha, where we come from he has a nickname..... the Demon Child!”

(T/N: GoodWife translated the nickname as the Strange Child, but the chinese characters mean “demonic and evil”, say in the comments which one you prefer.)

12th said defensively, “Master, those people are stupid! It’s just that I am more knowledgeable and a little bit clever with a higher intelligence..... Oh yeah, Brother Li, what you were saying earlier, what’s not possible?”

Li Ran asked, “How did you find that Innate Fu of yours?”

12th said, “Oh it was simple really, Brother Li. Why do I need to spend ten years to find it? Is finding it earlier bad?” He started feeling a little nervous at that thought.

Li Ran was utterly speechless. After a long while he said, “Your Master was right..... You are a little Demon Child!”

A thought suddenly appeared in 12th’s mind, he gleefully asked, “Master! Master! Does this mean I’ve advanced to a FuZhou Master?”

Luo Jie swallowed his breath and said, “You..... wouldn’t be a fully fledged FuZhou Master. I don’t know if this even counts as advancing because your situation is unprecedented, as such your Master cannot give you a definite answer. To be honest with you, 12th, whether you advance or not isn’t really important, what is important though..... is whether or not you’ve become more powerful. So, have you?”

To 12th, this reply felt like a bucket of iced water being poured on his head. At that moment his mind cleared and he answered, “Hmm, I think I’m still not strong enough, there’s too much still lacking.”

Li Ran’s expression was strange, every time he was about to speak, he immediately closed his mouth again. After a long while he finally said, “Luo Jie, my brother, you are very lucky. Although..... you shouldn’t influence the development of this little apprentice of yours. It’s much better to let him grow by himself in his own way, haha, all you have to make sure is that he’s following the right path.”

Luo Jie thought about it for a moment and agreed, “Indeed, this little guy is growing too fast, I’m at a bit of a loss. Alright then, I’ll listen to you.”

Li Ran stood and said, “Alright, it was very nice to meet all of you, but it’s time that I left this place. You guys can stay in this hut but remember

to close the door when you leave.” Without waiting for a reply, a Fu Door appeared in front of him and with a wave, he left.

Li Ran left so quickly that everyone just stared as he disappeared inside the Fu Door. Only when the Fu Door vanished did everybody snap out of it.

Luo Jie asked, “What does everyone think?”

Qi Nan Shan answered, “Elder, I don’t think he was speaking nonsense..... The things he showed us are all priceless treasures where we come from, and especially that Fu Door..... That was my first time seeing such a wondrous Fu, and to think, it can allow passage to the Mysterious Lands at will! That’s right, Elder, can you copy its creation?”

Luo Jie put the Fu Door Spirit Fu into his Innate Fu Book, he didn’t need to take it out to study it, in fact, he could study it in more detail like this than if he had held it in his hand. After a moment, he shook his head saying, “I have no idea how it was created, it’s different to what we’re used to, the technique used to make this are beyond our scope.”

Qi Nan Shan said, “I felt an aura of power around him, if I was to fight him, I don’t think that I could win at all.”

12th said, “Grandpa Nan Shan, are you saying he is also a Fu Warrior? There weren’t any Fu Patterns on his body though.”

Qi Nan Shan shook his head and said, “Yeah..... Although, if a Great Fu Master were to advance, the Fu Patterns on his body can be hidden

inside the body, I'm not sure if he is truly superior to me, but it is clear that he has a different system of governing FuZhou, and that system is no doubt superior to ours."

Luo Jie also nodded saying, "Yes, I could tell from our conversation, he is indeed stronger than us. I think, where he came from, whatever system they use, he is also a Master of that system. Only, we don't know what system that is, he wouldn't tell us."

12th suddenly spoke up, saying, "Master, Brother Li said he was 600 years old, do you think it's possible?"

Luo Jie thought about it for a long time silently, finally saying, "At the start I had doubts, but..... it doesn't seem like he was speaking nonsense, it's a shame, he imparted a lot of wisdom to us but we didn't tell him very much. Both he and I had our misgivings, but thankfully he wasn't spiteful of that. Had he engaged us in anger, I don't think I could take him in a fight."

He laughed bitterly and continued, "This is purely speculation but had we fought I think he would've been able to predict my every move..... He would be a very commendable enemy."

Qi Nan Shan nodded, "I also had that feeling, it makes people afraid to pick a fight with him. Almost as if, as soon as the fight starts, he would definitely be victorious. It's hard to imagine what it's like where he came from."

Luo Jie shook his head saying, "We wouldn't be able to go. Maybe 12th would have the opportunity, but we can't."

“Since the owner of this house already left, we might as well go too.”
12th said.

Luo Jie stood up and said, “12th is right, we should leave and meet up with the others at the oasis. Haha, we sure got a lot of stuff today, Li Ran might be mysterious but he doesn’t have malintentions. We were lucky to have met such a powerful man.”

Qi Nan Shan agreed, “Haha, my whole life, this is first time I’ve met such a mysterious person as powerful as that.”

12th asked whilst walking to the door, “Grandpa Nan Shan, you’ve been to a lot of Mysterious Lands, how were they compared to this one?”

Qi Nan Shan shook his head saying, “The Mysterious Lands are all different, there’s no way to compare them. Had we not met Li Ran, there would still be a lot of things that we don’t understand.”

Luo Jie had been to more Mysterious Lands than Qi Nan Shan and he agreed saying, “Yeah, it’s also the first time that I’ve met such a mysterious and powerful man, and to think, I thought that I had already reached the most powerful level possible..... Looking at it now, I still have a long way to go..... It seems I didn’t know as much as I thought.”

After everyone exited the thatch hut, Luo Jie made sure the door was closed himself.

Returning to the oasis, everyone had already set up the tents and fallen

asleep. 12th also returned to his tent, which was assembled by Huo Bao and his other companions. After entering the tent, the first thing he did was exhale his Innate Fu Orb to take a closer look at it.

True Life Fu, True Spirit Fu, Innate Fu, three different names for the same thing, and that was what made up the Innate Fu Core. To any Zhou Master, Fu Master and FuZhou Master, this Fu was the single most important Fu. The more powerful the Innate Fu, the easier it was to create a powerful Innate Fu Book.

12th understood this, it was just like the foundations of a house, so if the foundation was built for a bungalow, then only a bungalow could be built on it and at the very most a two storey house. However if seven or eight storeys were built on top of it then the problem of an unstable foundation would arise, meaning the building would eventually collapse. However, if at the very start the foundations were modelled for such a tall building, it wouldn't matter how many floors are built on top, there wouldn't be any problem. This True Spirit Fu was just like 12th laying down a sturdy foundation.

This True Spirit Fu was only the size of a thumb, bright green and pulsating, there were innumerable amounts of Fu fading in and out of visibility, almost like fish, one moment at the surface and the next deep below the water. What was more interesting was that this True Spirit Fu was very compatible with his own spirit, it was almost like a part of his spirit. After staring at it for a while, 12th contently inhaled it back.

He then proceeded to take out his Fu Door's Spirit Fu. It was a Spirit Fu triangular in shape with lots of ancient inscriptions of Fu. 12th recognised a few, but he honestly hasn't seen the majority of them, which were also green in colour. He placed the Fu on his forehead, and using the simplest method, he inspected this Fu.

Once his spirit had made contact with the Spirit Fu, he felt a surge of power suddenly absorbing the Fu Door's Spirit Fu and shortly afterwards, within his spirit, he noticed a small bead next to the True Spirit Fu. 12th was stunned, the connotations of this were huge, it meant that he had already started building up his Innate Fu Orb. Because he'd already seen the form of an Innate Fu Orb, he knew that this bead circling the Innate Fu Core was an important component of the Innate Fu Orb.

At the same time, when the Fu Door's Spirit Fu was absorbed, he suddenly just understood the Fu Door. He knew how to operate it like it was second nature; it's as if he could even use it telepathically. He hurriedly took out the two Treasure Fu that he owned, and likewise tried to absorb them into his spirit, however there was no effect. He was quite confused, could it be that Treasure Fu couldn't be absorbed into his Innate Fu?

After a long while he finally understood. It was because the Innate Fu was so powerful that these low leveled Treasure Fu practically have no way of entering the Innate Fu. Even though this was the case, he was very content.

After performing a simple nine part routine three times, 12th sat down on the soft beast skin and started his daily chanting. The memories from his first life had long since faded and the only thing he could remember was this scripture. This was also the only thing that in all his three lives he had never stopped or doubted doing.

This time round, whilst chanting, 12th noticed an obvious change. As soon as he started chanting he noticed the Innate Fu in his spirit start to spin rapidly. Each time when he finished reciting the scripture, his

spirit calmed down again. The Innate Fu had completely been assimilated into his spirit so he felt better than he had ever felt before.

This part of the scripture was the part that made him very happy, since it even worked on his Innate Fu, and the Innate Fu also had a strengthening effect on his spirit. Even if it were not obvious now, with time, the effects would start becoming more and more noticeable.

Meeting with Li Ran gave 12th a new road to follow, he didn't know where this road would lead, but it was obvious that following this road, he could only improve.

The next morning, 12th came to the oasis to wash, he saw his Master and Qi Nan Shan discussing something. Curious, he walked over and asked, "Master where are we going today?"

Qi Nan Shan smiled and said, "Your Master is deeply worried right now."

So 12th curiously asked, "Master, what are you worried about?"

Chapter 2: Ruins

Luo Jie asked, “Yesterday, Li Ran said something, do you remember what it was?”

12th laughed and replied, “Master, Brother Li said many things yesterday, couldn’t you be a little more specific? Unless..... You don’t mean that thing about the hunters..... do you?” He suddenly remembered that Qi Nan Shan said that his Master was very worried; he must’ve been worried about the journey they were about to make today. After thinking about it a bit, he understood just what his Master was worried about.

Luo Jie couldn’t help but shake his head, saying, “Oh 12th, you are too smart, of all the possibilities you even guessed this accurately.”

12th waved his hand modestly, “It was just a thought.”

“Little Demon!” Qi Nan Shan quietly mumbled.

Luo Jie said, “What do you think 12th? I don’t think Li Ran would lie to us so I don’t dispute the credibility of this information, however we don’t know how strong those hunters are, and if they are stronger than us then we’ll be walking into a death trap, if we’re about even or if they’re weaker than us then it should be worth us continuing exploring.”

12th replied, “There is a possibility that we’re stronger than them, but most likely they are more powerful than us.”

Qi Nan Shan said, “We’ve already come this far, I don’t think anybody wants to turn around and go back.”

Indeed, like Qi Nan Shan, Luo Jie clearly didn’t want to go back, for the Mysterious Lands were not easy to enter and even though they had Fu Doors now, the only location recorded on it was this Mysterious Land. They also didn’t have the location of their home recorded, so they had to wait until they managed to leave the Mysterious Land and only upon returning to their home could they record the location onto the Fu Door, so even if they wanted to return home, they couldn’t. They were also unwilling to stay in one place and not do anything, so the only choice was to press on.

As such, Luo Jie made his decision quickly, “We’ll continue, but be careful, try to hide from the hunters and if we do encounter them, don’t hesitate, kill them immediately! We must not allow our presence to be known lest they start hunting us.” He said with a ferocious killing intent. He was willing to kill for the group’s safety.

Qi Nan Shan called out, “Alright, gather round!”

12th said, “Master, we need to find some horses first, walking like this is too slow.”

Luo Jie replied, “Yeah, at the speed we’re going, it would be too exhausting.”

The group of 25 people gathered quickly, Qi Nan Shan said, “Luo Zhan, take two people to scout ahead, if you see people don’t do

anything, return immediately.”

Luo Zhan nodded and took two people ahead.

.....

What was ahead was a seemingly endless expanse of forest. Fog rose out of the jungle and under the sunlight, it produced rainbows. Countless birds were flying overhead with their bird calls. Occasionally, a strange growl emanated from the forest, it sounded like a beast's call, which gave this forest quite an eerie and ominous atmosphere.

Luo Zhan and his company stood atop a hill, carefully watching the edge of the forest, he announced, “That forest is not safe!”

Qi Nan Shan's expression was grave, he said, “We don't know what's in there, Elder, I have a bad feeling about this, it's as if this forest will be my grave.”

Luo Jie said, “Bullshit! We'll be careful, you give the orders. 12th, you and your companions follow me, don't worry, Master is here, nothing bad will happen.”

12th has a strong feeling of danger present, he said, “Master, I know.” as he said to his four companions, “Everyone, follow us closely, don't be stupid, under no circumstances must we distract the Masters.”

Huo Bao said, “We can help too!”

12th said, “Lil Bao, now is the worst time to be thinking like that, we can’t help, and we must not add to the problem, got it? We are far too weak to help them! Not distracting the Masters is the biggest help we can give!”

Luo Jie slightly nodded, 12th was very wise, and he was not wrong, not distracting them was the best help they can offer.

“Listen to 12th’s orders! Your jobs are simple, and that’s to protect 12th, you don’t need to worry about anything else, the rest is for us old people to handle.”

Luo Zhan and the other two Fu Warriors had already entered the forest, they had a good communication system, so they wouldn’t get lost. Qi Nan Shan called, “Form two groups, left and right, I’ll lead, the Elder and 12th’s group go in the middle, everyone else follow behind..... Alright everyone, liven up! Let’s go!”

Luo Jie told 12th’s group, “Follow me, don’t fall behind.”

The jungle was humid with a strong smell of decay in the air. 12th held a Fu Knife, occasionally brushing past branches and weeds. After about ten minutes into the forest he encountered a pair of poisonous snakes, which were promptly cut in pieces by his Fu Knife.

Next to him were two little dogs, they were Beast Fu gifted by the Great Zhou Master, Wu Qi Rong, they could be used to search and scout ahead, because the Fu that commanded them was incomplete, they weren’t very useful. But having the two dogs following had it’s benefits, they were the

ones who noticed the snakes.

Everyone slowly waded through the jungle, 12th could barely see the sky above them, which was basically completely covered by trees, as the temperature increased, more and more bugs came out, there were also endless croaks from frogs. Everyone bore the heat and proceeded without complaint, at a place like this, nobody wanted to speak, they only want to get through this frightful forest quickly.

Qi Nan Shan suddenly raised his arm, and everyone immediately stopped, The heat felt more unbearable than ever at that moment. 12th looked like he'd taken a shower, it was his first time sweating so much that his sweat felt like sludge, it was even worse than a sauna. Luo Jie was as usual, he had his Innate Fu protecting him, so he doesn't feel the heat at all.

Even though 12th had his Innate Fu, it had not formed into an Innate Fu Orb yet. He didn't have enough Fu to turn it into an Innate Fu Orb, and so there weren't many uses yet, so he just had to bear it and power through the immense heat.

A Fu Warrior quickly returned to Qi Nan Shan's side, whispered something and carried on ahead, Qi Nan Shan signalled to every to follow. After about half an hour of walking, everyone's eyes glittered. They had suddenly walked out of the eerie jungle, and could feel the cool breeze and fresh air, the feeling was very indulgent.

Before them lay slews of rocks, it was impossible for large trees to grow, only small bushes, so they could see the sky. This place was a ruin, the majority of buildings had already collapsed, only a very small number of stone houses were left standing and not too far away was a small stream

which flowed around the ruins.

“These are ruins? What kind of people left this behind?”

Luo Jie shook his head saying, “I don’t know, but we’ll rest here for a few days and while we’re at it, we’ll look around this place to see if we can find anything good. Ruins like this are usually here because of a civilization dying out, sometimes there might be something nice amongst the rubble, like maybe some Fu left behind from the people of this place..... It’s up to luck now really, we might even be able to find a Spirit Fu or Ancient Fu.”

Qi Nan Shan called, “You see that stone column? Everyone scatter, split up and search around, everyone gather at that stone column by dusk, we’ll camp there.” He then also called, “A few of you come with me, we’re going hunting! Luo Zhan you are on protection detail for the Elder!”

12th smiled, “Master, there shouldn’t be any danger here, let us five form a group and look around too.”

Luo Jie said, “Xiao Feng, go with 12th’s group. Luo Zhan, let’s go to that stone column.”

12th cheered, calling, “Uncle Feng, everyone, let’s go, hehe, let’s go that way!” as he walked to the left amongst the rubble.

Everyone formed a line and disappeared into the ruins.

These ruins were big, about the size of 12th’s city from his last life. The

group of 25 easily spread amongst the ruins so they lost sight of each other.

12th had already seen a building that hadn't collapsed yet, it was a two storey stone house under the shade of a giant tree that was in front of it, at a cursory glance, it was easy to miss.

The road disappeared and all that was left was rubble, it gave way to overgrown grass, shrubbery and weeds, 12th and his company had to use Fu Knives to cut a path as they slowly made their way forward.

The road wasn't long, and because the stone house was right next to the edge of the forest, it was very easy to miss.

Chen Hong was following behind 12th, relentlessly muttering to herself, "I need to bathe, I'm beginning to smell, Oh, I need to bathe..... This bloody place is too hot....." Occasionally she'd catch herself speaking aloud so she lowered her voice, but 12th's hearing was very good, he could hear it clearly and couldn't help but say, "Stop nagging..... the more you repeat yourself the hotter it is....."

At that, Chen Hong immediately blushed, afraid to speak, so she closed her mouth and didn't speak anymore.

After walking for about half an hour, the six of them finally reached the stone house. There was a giant tree practically half embedded in the stone building, who knew how long it'd been alive for. It was cool and refreshing in the shade of the tree. This building was very ancient, the walls were overgrown with vines, not only the walls but the vines have grown into the building and covered a lot of the interior too.

Huo Bao cheered as he ran inside, only for 12th to catch him by the collar and pull back hard, saying, “Stop being so excited! Don’t just abruptly sprint ahead!”

Huo Bao unbelieving, asked, “12th, when did you get so strong?”

12th curiously asked, “I’m not that strong am ? Stop kidding around.”

Huo Bao shook his head, he was trying to figure out how he got pulled back by 12th, saying, “12th, you really have gotten a lot stronger..... nevermind, I’m going ahead to take a look, I’ll be careful!” 12th brought out his Fu Knife and said, “Wait for me! Stop running off!”

Xiao Feng only watched with a smirk on his face, he didn’t have to intervene, he knew to let the kids grow by themselves, if they needed help out of every situation then it would be impossible for them to mature.

Not long after, Huo Bao walked out, with an expression full of disappointment, sighing, “There’s nothing inside, it’s empty.”

12th smiled saying, “Well let’s go in and have another look.”

This gloomy, ominous, little stone house was completely made of green stone, as such it was very sturdy, especially since it stayed standing after countless centuries of erosion, and still kept its original architecture. 12th walked into a room on the second floor, saying, “This is the master bedroom.”

There was a platform on the side of the second floor virtually completely covered by branches. There was a total of three bedrooms, one of them had half collapsed and the sky could be seen while the floorboards that were there originally had long since decomposed. The rooms on the ground floor were even more dilapidated. 12th followed the platform down to the back of the house.

The garden was overgrown with wild grass and bushes, not far out was a collapsed little stone building, all that was left were ruins. 12th flourished his Fu Knife and cut a path through the grass. Huo Bao mused, “12th, that stone house has already collapsed, there probably isn’t anything there.”

Without answering 12th continued on ahead, and soon they arrived at the collapsed structure, and he began to diligently look around in the rubble.

Xiao Feng asked, “Have you found anything?” He has a strange faith in 12th, always feeling like the kid was special.

12th smiled, “I’m not sure, heh, there’s a little guesswork going on, would you mind giving me a hand?”

Xiao Feng replied readily, “Sure, what do you need me to do?”

12th said, “Move all of these stones away!”

Xiao Feng laughed, “This might take a while, alright, just wait a bit..... You guys, come help us out, Chen Hong you don’t have to.”

The few of them quickly moved all of the rubble away, Xiao Feng dealt with the big green stones and everyone else moved the smaller ones so it only took about twenty minutes before the floor of the stone building was revealed.

12th looked around and asked, “Can you clear out this corner here too?”

Without complaint, Xiao Feng took the three kids and quickly cleared the rubble in the corner., “Chen Hong, could you pass me the waterskin?” requested 12th.

Chen Hong passed over a waterskin, 12th opened it and poured the contents onto the ground. Chen Bing began to understand what he was doing, saying, “Is this to check for a hidden basement?” With that, everyone else understood it too, 12th was looking for a basement, and this was a pretty good method for it.

Soon the water stopped spreading out, but instead started to flow downwards. 12th smiled, saying, “Here it is. Uncle Feng, I’ll leave this to you! Dig this up, there must be a basement here.”

Xiao Feng brought out a Fu Cudgel and continuously smacked the ground with it, after a few times, the ground started to crack and a hole was made. Xiao Feng carried on hitting the ground making the hole bigger, and in the sun, they could clearly see the staircase leading down.

Xiao Feng said in admiration, “Impressive, you can even find something like this. I’ll go down and have a look first, you guys wait here.” as he brought out his Fu Dagger, saying, “Give me an Illumination

Fu!”

12th had a lot of these single use Auxiliary-type Fu, so he lifted his hand and shot out an Illumination Fu, and at that moment a beam of light shot down, illuminating the stairway below.

Xiao Feng slowly walked down, and not long after he called up, “Come on down, there isn’t anything dangerous down here.”

12th and his company walked down. Xiao Feng has already started using a Fu Lamp. As soon as 12th went in, he understood, this was a grand hall for creating Fu. It was pretty much the same as the rooms for creating Fu in the North Fu Sect, with few minor differences. He could see the tools left behind, and amongst them there were a few tools that he had not seen before.

This underground structure had one grand laboratory and four other rooms. All the materials, except for the minerals and bone materials, in the material storage room had long since rotted away, and all the liquid materials had already dried up. The washing room still had water flowing through and there wasn’t anything in the furnace room. However, it was the last room that gave 12th a great surprise. Inside not only was there a skeleton, but also seven Fu Books, the only problem was that he couldn’t find the Fu Keys to open them.

12th walked over to the skeleton, squatting down, he studied it a bit. The clothes had long since decomposed, even the Fu Belt which was around the waist had turned into dust, so there wasn’t anything of value left.

He found that on the bones were small thin Fu Patterns that he knew were left behind by Shadow Fu, which indicated that this person wasn't a Fu Warrior but was in fact a FuZhou Warrior. 12th swallowed a breath and stood, and accidentally knocked the skeleton with his foot, which caused the skeleton to collapse with the head rolling to one side while the jaw dropped off of the skull, and stuck in the roof of its mouth was a Fu.

It was a red coloured Fu and the appearance of the Fu was unique, it was irregular. It was quite pretty to look at, and on it were layers of Fu Patterns but there was also a red bird engraved on it. That bird looked just like a 3D pictured inscribed onto the Fu. 12th habitually placed the Fu onto his forehead, trying to discover what kind of Fu it was

(T/N : Ok now I am pretty sure that Fu, *i.e.* Runes are actually Rune Stones. Literally rocks with runes inscribed on them.)

As soon as it made contact with his spirit, the Fu immediately dissipated and was quickly absorbed into his Innate Fu, and so into his spirit. 12th was greatly surprised and happy, for he knew that this Fu was at least a Spirit Fu. He continued to inspect it and couldn't help but smile. The Fu hadn't completely deteriorated yet, there was one more use left in it, but because of that, he could use its spirit energy to slowly regenerate it.

12th closed his eyes, carefully experiencing this Fu. He had a feeling that it was very powerful, but he couldn't figure out how this Fu was created. He felt like it was an imprint of a bird's spirit, with a powerful, fiery aura circling it. For now, his Innate Fu had already absorbed two Fu, one was the Spirit Fu for the Fu Door, and the other was this new one.

12th was almost certain that this Fu was a higher tier than Spirit Fu, but whether it was an Ancient Fu or not he couldn't be sure of. His spirit continuously channeled energy into the new Fu, and in a moment's effort, the Bird Fu started to emanate a brilliant red light that circled his Innate Fu rapidly, and after each circuit the Bird Fu recovered a little. 12th knew that given enough time, the Bird Fu could completely recover.

Huo Bao couldn't stop complaining as he sighed, "This bastard was skint, there's nothing here, it would've been nice if he had kept some high tier Fu around....."

Hong Shi giggled, saying, "Keep dreaming, had it not been for 12th, we wouldn't have even found this underground chamber, haha. There seems to be quite a bit of material and some tools for creating Fu, this counts as a success!" They didn't know that 12th had already found a Fu.

After carefully searching for a bit, they didn't find anything else. 12th smiled and said, "Let's go, we were quite lucky today."

After they returned to the surface, Xiao Feng said, "Let's go straight to the stone column."

Everyone made their way to the stone column with some difficulty. Although this place used to be a city, now it was more like an overgrown jungle, with rubble, weeds, thickets, bushes and small trees growing everywhere.

12th suddenly felt a wave of fear, it was a fluctuation in his spirit, it was just like anticipating a steep drop whilst riding a roller-coaster. He said

weakly, “Wait a moment, something’s wrong……” He waved everyone in amongst the rubble. Xiao Feng asked, “What’s the matter? What’s wrong?”

Everyone squatted next to a green rock, 12th said, “I don’t feel too well, wait a bit, there’s something wrong.”

Everyone was very confused, 12th himself doesn’t know what this spirit is suddenly afraid of. Everyone looked around, and Huo Bao said, “I don’t see anything wrong…… 12th, are you okay?”

12th couldn’t help but remember his last life, for when he also had such a feeling of fright, especially on a battle ground, it was very efficacious, and thanks to this gut instinct he avoided many dangers. He said, “Stop talking, keep still!” His tone suddenly became very serious. Huo Bao has never seen 12th so serious, so he stopped talking.

“Uncle Feng, could you please hurry over to the stone column, hurry and warn my Master…… There is definitely something wrong, don’t ask how I know, but please hurry, we’ll hide right here and ask the Masters to hide as well.”

Xiao Feng was hesitant because he was tasked to protect 12th.

“Hurry!”

It was very frightening to see 12th angry, even though he was just a child, the air of power around him was anything but weak. Xiao Feng nodded, and said, “Don’t run off! I’ll be back soon!”

12th grabbed his arm and said, “Remember that underground room we were in? If a problem arises, we’ll go hide there. Uncle Feng, you stay safe too.”

Xiao Feng nodded, and zipped through the rubble. Without 12th and his company to slow him down, he made his way around with amazing speed, he disappeared amongst the trees in the blink of an eye.

12th sat down and said, “Everyone rest up, but stay vigilant, and talk quietly!”

Chen Hong was pale with fright, she asked, “12th, what happened? Don’t just scare us like that!”

12th couldn’t explain it, he swallowed a breath and said, “Everyone trust me, just wait here. I don’t know what’s going to happen but it won’t be good.....” He let out a long breath. The frightful fluctuations in his spirit suddenly appeared again, prompting him to look around.

“Look! What’s that?”

Beams of light streaked across the sky, as soon as they saw it, they heard a roar.

12th said in a panic, “Everyone hide! Stay hidden!” He vigorously rubbed his eyes, as he couldn’t believe what he was seeing in the sky, thinking to himself, “Fucking hell..... What is that thing? Is it a chariot? Since when could chariots fly? Shit!”

In reality what was flying in the sky was not a chariot, it only had few similarities to a chariot, it was a Fu Carriage being driven by Fu Beast Spirits, which allowed it some degree of flight. It could only fly a few hundred meters above ground, but it was very fast. If Li Ran was here, he would've been able to tell 12th that this wasn't a chariot, it was a hunting vehicle, it was a flying chariot specifically used for hunting.

12th's eyesight was pretty good, as one chariot flew overhead, he could clearly see the people on board. There was a total of six people, the coachman was an old man, the other five were young men standing on the carriage.

Each person had Fu Light flashing from them, forming armour. They watched the ground carefully, with three of them holding a thin, long Fu Machine. 12th's pupils contracted, he immediately understood, those things looked a lot like sniper rifles, only with the enchantment of Fu Patterns, their power was even greater.

12th made a silent prayer, hoping that Uncle Feng had already arrived at the stone column to warn everybody.

Huo Bao's face was filled with fear, as he stared into the sky, quietly asking, "Who..... Who are those people?"

12th stared at him viciously, and placing his index finger on his lips, signalled for him to shut up, and at the same time he motioned for everyone to stay well hidden.

There was a total of three hunting chariots continuously circling the air

above them. Suddenly, one of the three hunting chariots flew down towards a part of the ruins, and then he saw two sniper rifles aim down, and with a flash with Fu Patterns, the ground below exploded violently. There was a long scream, and they could see silhouettes of people dashing around the rubble, trying to escape, at the same time, the people in the chariots began to cheer.

12th uttered bitterly, "Somebody was discovered!"

Chen Hong's face turned pale again as she asked, "Who was discovered?"

"I can't see, but I hope it wasn't the Masters. Only Master has ranged attacks, everyone else....." He replied with a sigh.

Chapter 3: Enemies

12th hadn't been this nervous in a long time; his heart beating rapidly. He already saw everyone as his family now, and in the span of less than a year he had already integrated into this group extremely well. Upon seeing the flying hunting chariot fire randomly at the ground, 12th could feel hatred and anger well up inside him.

"Who are they? Why are they attacking us?" Chen Bing asked as he bit his lip and clenched his teeth.

12th continuously prayed, "Please let them be safe, please....." He didn't have any thoughts of retaliating, his only thoughts were that they weren't strong enough to take on these three hunting chariots alone.

On them there were only eighteen people, but they were well prepared. They were all strangers, but the hunting chariots especially amazed 12th for they had the ability to fly, which 12th had never seen before.. It's not that he hadn't seen a machine that could fly, in his past life, not only were there airplanes in the sky, but there were also rockets, however this was different, this world is terribly unadvanced so the flying chariot was beyond the limits of imagination in a world like this.

Even though Luo Jie had reached the level of a Great FuZhou Master, he could levitate a few meters off the ground at most, but not fly. The hunting chariots were fast, which was very convenient for hunting creatures, be they men or beast, and fighting back was difficult because they were attacking from above. The hunted could only run or hide.

This was a cruel tactic. Through a gap between the rocks 12th could see the people on the chariots fire downwards repeatedly, one after another. That thing was basically like the bazookas of his past life—whatever it hit would instantly explode, and soon he could hear the horrible screams without knowing who exactly got shot.

12th's face went pale and he looked terrible as he started looking more and more depressed, while his body was shaking uncontrollably. Seeing this Chen Hong thought that 12th was scared, but in actuality he was furious. She took his hand in an attempt to console him. 12th turned and looked at Chen Hong, understanding immediately, he shook his head slightly. Chen Hong, on the other hand, was in shock because 12th's eyes were so bloodshot. They seemed completely red.

Huo Bao was so eager that it gave 12th a headache. 12th quietly said, "Let's retreat and go back to that underground room! It's too dangerous here! If one of those hits us then we'll all die for sure!"

"We have to help them!"

12th shoved him and said quietly, "Don't be stupid! Not holding them back is the biggest help we can give! Now think of a way to get us back!"

Huo Bao saw 12th's crimson eyes, and was also scared, he whispered, "Fine, we'll go. No need to get so angry." He sighed and mumbled, "Since when did he get so fierce?" What was strange was that they didn't have any thoughts of objecting at all. They all quietly followed 12th as they retreated. They were very careful, doing their best to hide amongst the grass and trees as they made their way back.

Not long after they started moving a green ring of light shot towards one of the chariots. Luo Jie finally made his move.

Ring of Heavenly Thorns!

Luo Jie started with his most powerful attack. He fired three Rings of Heavenly Thorns consecutively, slicing towards the nearest chariot.

The Ring of Heavenly Thorns was fast beyond compare, and in the blink of an eye, it hit the chariot. Luo Jie's timing was impeccable, making his move between the enemy's shots. The Ring of Heavenly Thorns bit deep into the chariot, countless sparks were flying from the impact as the materials of the chariots were trying to resist the attack, however it could only stop one, and there were two more following so with the chariot's defences having been broken, the entire chariot came crashing down.

The five people on board jumped off. It seemed that the Fu Beast Spirits pulling the chariot were under the control of the driver, as they quickly caught the five falling people. Just like that the five of them successfully landed on the ground. 12th then heard a loud voice shouting, "Fire!" and millions of Fu Arrows shot towards those five people.

This synergy was sculpted by Luo Jie after many years of working under him, needless to say, as soon as Luo Jie attacked, the rest of them know exactly how to back him up.

Thankfully Xiao Feng got there in time and everyone hid quickly, however there wasn't time to notify everyone. As such the other small group was discovered by the hunters and they were fired upon. Luo Jie

and Qi Nan Shan couldn't let anger cloud their judgment, so the two of them formulated a plan beforehand and only then did they attack.

Luo Jie attacked suddenly, first downing one of the opposing chariots, and then continued to attack, shooting three more Rings of Heavenly Thorns, focusing on the next chariot with such great timing that it was breathtaking.

Once the second chariot exploded, the last one quickly flew to evade, not daring to fly randomly lest they get attacked too.

This was a death match, there was no chance of negotiation, it was a kill or be killed situation. As soon as the people from the chariot landed on the ground the Fu Arrows were flying in their direction, and moments later screams and shouts could be heard as they got hit by the arrows and were wounded.

The enemy were well prepared, it was unknown what type of armour they were wearing, but their entire body glowed with Fu Patterns and as soon as a Fu Arrow made contact, countless Fu would appear to block the arrow and stop it entirely. However they never thought that there would be so many Fu Arrows, so once the armour was overwhelmed with numbers, the men could do nothing except get hit and wounded.

Two chariots exploded and twelve people fell, landing in two locations, even though the distance wasn't far, it was still difficult for them to group up. At that moment Qi Nan Shan was in a rage. The reason why he and Luo Jie were raging was because two Fu Warriors were killed by the enemy attacks. This was also the cause of their collective anger and why they initiated an attack.

Qi Nan Shan, like an arrow, rushed towards the closest six people, with a longsword in hand, which was an uncommon but powerful Fu Weapon. Unleashing a warcry, he swept his sword in an arc in front of him and a giant crescent of silver appeared. He aimed towards the enemy's waist area.

Those few people were also experienced in combat, so seeing Qi Nan Shan slicing his sword this way, the two of them stepped forward and each held up a giant Fu Shield. The Fu Sword's strike hit the Fu Shields heavily, and the two guys were surprised as they didn't think one strike could have this much power in it.

Bang! Bang!

Two loud sounds followed by the two shield men being knocked back, as if they were hit by a giant ball, and in the air they spat out some blood. The Great Fu Master wasn't some weak, common man, even though he wasn't the strongest person where they came from, he still wasn't someone to be underestimated. This one strike just injured two of them.

Qi Nan Shan shouted, "Go to hell!".

This time he aimed at the young man who fired the heavy artillery, striking in front of him, clean and precise. It was as if he was being cut by light. The old man next to the target suddenly raised his foot and kicked the young man away, but he was slightly too slow as the young man still got hit, but only lost a leg, which was proceeded by screams.

One strike cut off one leg, the young man grabbed his stump as he was rolling on the ground crying and screaming. The old man was the driver of the chariot, and he rushed towards Qi Nan Shan shouting, “You motherfucker!”. The two of them clashed, and after boom they both leapt back. Qi Nan Shan could still find his footing, the old man on the other hand could not. There was still a difference in strength as he spurted some blood.

Qi Nan Shan was dauntless as he briefly stabilised himself and immediately started running.

Suddenly a piercing scream was heard, stumbling and tottering, a woman ran. Qi Nan Shan didn't bother to chase her, but instead rushed to catch that old man.

Two Fu Warriors nearby started chasing after the woman.

Like the wind, Qi Nan Shan sprinted in front of the old man, without hesitation he brandished his sword. The old man stuttered, “You..... You dare kill us?..... I- “ Qi Nan Shan cut him short with a strike from his sword. Smiling coldly he said, “Since you attacked us, then you should have prepared to die!”.

He darted towards the other guy in a crazed rage.

The guy was pale with fright as he said, “Stop! Stop! Please don-.....”

Qi Nan Shan swept his sword back, and with a boom, that guy was lifted off of the ground. He attacked unabated, and not waiting for the

guy to finish he thrust his sword, and all that could be heard was a crunching noise as all the bones in that guy's body was crushed. The guy's body went limp in the air in an arc, and with a thud, hit the ground, dead.

No matter who it was, being hit by a Great Fu Master up close was an incredibly frightening thing. In the brief time of ten seconds, six people were either killed or heavily injured.

The ones who landed on the other side suffered likewise for they were surrounded by Fu Warriors. However those Fu Warriors didn't fight head on, instead they relentlessly fired volleys of Fu Arrows. Luo Jie used ranged attacks to quickly end the fight. Seeing the twelve people on the ground being slaughtered, the remaining chariot in the sky quickly retreated, disappearing into the horizon.

Luo Jie said gravely, "Loot the dead, I'll go find 12th!". He was smart, these three flying chariots, although the people on board had similar skill levels may be a bit weaker, their preparations were strong. It was also clear that these were three small groups. Had there been one or two dozen of these groups, then the consequences would have been more serious.

"Hurry! Let's leave!"

Qi Nan Shan looked a bit worse for wear, he: lost two of his Fu Warriors, had one heavily injured Fu Master and one lightly injured. So even though he killed over ten of the people who had randomly attacked them, he was still seething with rage. In the Mysterious Lands it was rare to encounter these attack-first-questions-later people.

“There’s still one alive!” reported on the the Fu Masters. Qi Nan Shan brusquely replied, “Kill him!”.

Luo Jie interjected, “Wait! Bind him and take him with us!”.

Qi Nan Shan was angry beyond words, he said, “Elder, are you really going to let him live?”

“I’m not letting him live, I want to know who they are! I almost forgot about it during the killing! Good thing there’s still one alive to talk.” replied Luo Jie.

Qi Nan Shan said, “Damn, it seems I also forgot about that. Fuck..... Who the hell are they, attacking without warning, did they take us for prey?”.

They all made their retreats quickly. 12th and his group hadn’t even made it all the way back to the underground room and were already caught up to. Luo Jie yelled out, “12th are you okay?” as he grabbed 12th by the shoulders and looked him up and down. The worry on his face made 12th very emotional, knowing his Master really cared about him.

12th replied, “Master, I’m fine! Don’t worry! So..... Where do we go from now? We can’t stay here!”.

The people present, other than the five kids, were all experienced fighters and they didn’t fear fighting. Luo Jie nodded and said, “We’ll go into the forest, maybe we can hide there”.

Surrounding the ruins was a giant mass of trees, 12th thought very hard for a second and looked down at his feet.

“What’s wrong?” asked Luo Jie.

12th replied, “The trail that we’re leaving behind..... it’s too obvious, it’ll be too easy for them to follow us!”.

Luo Jie couldn’t stop smiling wryly. Usually he would rarely need to cover up his own tracks because he was a Great FuZhou Master and barely anybody would dare challenge him, however this time is different, so even though he had killed those initial attackers, he knew that if more groups came it would be impossible to beat them all. Especially since they had those bazooka-like weapons, which made things all the more difficult.

Qi Nan Shan said, “Follow us? Perfect, I’ll kill them all!”. His hatred for those strangers was incredible.

12th said, “First thing’s first, we should get to the forest. It’s too open here. If any of those people flew over now, we wouldn’t even have anywhere to hide. It’s too dangerous!”.

Luo Jie agreed, saying, “Alright, let’s go!”.

“Luo Zhan, carry 12th. Xiao Feng take Huo Bao and the others. We should go as fast as possible.” Qi Nan Shan said.

A few minutes later, everyone made their way into the forest. As soon as they entered the forest 12th yelled out, “Stop! Stop!”.

Whether it was Luo Jie or Qi Nan Shan, they all respected 12th’s opinions. Right now his words bore a lot of weight so everyone stopped immediately. Luo Jie asked, “12th, why are we stopping?”.

12th smiled and said, “Master, Grandpa Nan Shan, wait a bit. Uncle Luo and Uncle Feng, give me a hand!” as he motioned for the two Fu Masters to dig a hole here and there, peel some bark, etc.. Everyone watching were utterly confused. Next he pulled out a Single-use Fu and placed it inside. Luo Jie understood instantly, asking, “12th, this is a trap isn’t it?”.

“Yep, it’s a trap!”

Luo Jie stated, “Single-use Fu are too weak, it might not work on them.”

12th smiled, saying, “I wasn’t planning on hurting them in the first place,. Of course if it can hurt them then all the better, but it’s a shame that there aren’t any more powerful Single-use Fu, haha. The purpose of this trap is forewarning, it let’s us know if and when those people are chasing us, so we can better prepare ourselves!”.

Luo Jie said, “I have a few decent Single-use Fu, haha, I’ll give them all to you.” as he passed over six Fu. 12th didn’t think too much as he immediately buried another two. Keeping the other four, if his Master said they were decent then they must be quite decent, so he didn’t want to put them all into the trap.

After a delay of about fifteen minutes, 12th finished his preparations. He said, "Alright, it's done, Master, let's go."

They didn't go towards the mountain valley, but instead they continued deeper into the forest, slightly changing their direction. They originally went East, but now they were heading North East.

After hurrying for about 100 miles, Luo Jie said, "Stop! Search the area, see if there's a suitable place to rest."

Luo Zhan put 12th down, saying, "12th, you've gotten heavy again....."

12th, using the most innocent of expressions, said, "My bones are heavy..... Uncle, this little bit of weight shouldn't affect you that much, right? You run faster than a rabbit!".

Luo Zhan didn't respond, and a few moments later he said, "Fucking rabbit, you're the rabbit here....." He could help but laugh after finishing.

12th laughed too and shrugged as he turned around and walked to his Master's side, saying, "Master, we can't stop here for too long, rest a bit, but the sooner we leave the better."

Luo Jie nodded, saying, "We have a hostage, we should interrogate him, and try to find out who they are."

Qi Nan Shan smiled cruelly, volunteering, "I'll go!".

12th immediately followed, "I'll go too!".

Luo Jie nodded, "Alright, let's go together, I want to know who they are too."

It was a man in his mid twenties, wearing fancy clothes, who had lots of Fu Patterns on them. There were also many small Fu pieces hidden in them, and the Fu Belt around his waist was also beautiful, there was even a pretty little Fu on his buckle.

Qi Nan Shan meekly said, "12th, you ask him!"

Shocked, 12th asked, "Me?"

Qi Nan Shan nodded, "I'm afraid I'll lose my temper and kill him!"

12th wasn't even nervous, he had already interrogated a captive before in his past life, he said, "Alright then I'll do it!". So he walked up to the captive and said, "Give me a waterskin!". He filled his mouth with water and sprayed the guy all over. The guy was woken up by the sudden coldness, but he was still dizzy.

Qi Nan Shan and Luo Jie gathered some Fu Masters and surrounded him, they wanted to see how 12th would interrogate the captive.

The first thing 12th said gave everyone shivers.

“Bro, what’s your name?”

It’s like this kid calls everyone he meets ‘bro’. If it was with someone he knew, then calling them ‘bro’ or ‘uncle’ wouldn’t be out of the ordinary, but calling a captive ‘bro’? Everyone watched 12th with wonder, not knowing how he’d deal with this captive.

“You bastard! Let me go!”

12th told him, “Good children don’t swear!” as he took the guy’s hand and pinched his little finger. He didn’t have Qi Nan Shan’s strength, able to break that bone like a twig, however his method was more effective, and he bent the finger back. There was a snapping sound, and the first section of the finger snapped at the joint.

The man screamed, breaking a finger was very painful. 12th asked, “So brother, what’s your name?”

Everyone could feel the chill down their spines, a nine year old kid doing something like this, so calm and collected, it was a little unsettling.

“Hnng..... Aaaggghhh..... You.....I’ll fucking kill you! I’ll fucking skin you alive.....”

12th took out the Fu Knife he used to cut up Fu Beasts, “Good idea! But you know brother..... I have a better idea! How about this, I’ll skin you alive first! What do you say?”

Once he saw the Fu Knife that 12th was holding, he knew that that

knife was used for collecting materials. Fear crept into his eyes, and at the same time he confirmed that 12th was indeed a practitioner of Fu. He screamed, “You won’t get away! Even if you kill me, you still won’t get away..... You’ll be sold as slaves..... Ugh..... Just you wait.....”

12th frowned, saying, “I hate being threatened, hehe,” he continued, “I’ll dig your eyes out, who knows if that can be fixed..... Heh, maybe I’ll cut off your eyelids and let your eyes slide out?” as he ran his Fu Knife along the guy’s eye socket lightly.

At that moment the man gave up, he said, “You..... you win! Ask what you will, I won’t hide anything. Kill me or free me..... Just don’t torture me!”

12th nodded, asking, “Name?”

“Fu Ye Jie. My name is Fu Ye Jie!”

12th curiously asked, “That’s a strange name! Your family name is Fu?”
(**T/N:** In case you’re wondering, that Fu in his name is not the same character as the Fu (Runes). It’s strange because it’s rare that someone would have that as the family name.)

Fu Ye Jie replied, “No, my family name isn’t Fu, it’s Fu Ye, I’m from the Fu Ye clan!”

12th was at a loss as he asked, “Master, have you heard of the Fu Ye clan?”

Luo Jie replied, “No, I’ve never heard of such a clan.”

12th continued to asked, “How many of you came? Why did you attack us?”

Fu Ye Jie smiled coldly, “Hah, You came from the lower levels of the FuZhou Lands right? We came from the upper levels, unlike you..... needing to wait for the right moment and luck to enter the Mysterious Lands, we can enter any time we want. This Mysterious Land is a training area, and every so often hundreds of people come to train! This time..... there are over three hundred hunting chariots just from my clan! If only we didn’t separate from the group..... Argh!”

12th continued, “Why did you attack us?”

Fu Ye Jie said coldly, “This place is a training area, so anybody who didn’t come with us from the upper levels of the FuZhou Lands are all enemies, so if we encountered anybody from the lower levels, haha, then they are all trophies, our slaves! That’s why, that’s the reason we attacked you!”

12th smiled coldly, “But now you’re our prisoner, you’re our slave!”

Fu Ye Jie laughed, “Haha, in your dreams! You won’t get away! This time, tens of thousands of hunting chariots came through! Along with the leading group there are hundreds of thousands of people, you really think you can escape? Haha.....”

12th, “Does everyone have their own Fu Door?”

Fu Ye Jie replied, “Fu Door? Only each clan has a giant Fu Door, How could each individual have their own?”

12th turned and looked at Luo Jie, there was shock and non-understanding in his eyes. 12th continued to ask, “Are Individual Fu Doors rare?”

Fu Ye Jie said, “Individual Fu Doors? They exist? How come I don’t know about it! In any case you people from the lower levels, you couldn’t possibly have such a thing.”

12th asked, “How big is this Mysterious Land? Have you got a map?”

Fu Ye Jie’s expression changed slightly, he said, “No, we only came to train, why would we have a map!”

12th knew that this guy was lying, but he didn’t call him out on it immediately. He continued, “Your power, compared to the others who were with you, are you one of the weaker ones?” He said provocatively.

Fu Ye Jie smiled, “You don’t have to gauge our strength, infact, I’ll tell you..... I’m not the weakest but there are at least ten thousand who are as strong as me or stronger than myself..... There’s also at least ten thousand, hehe, if our elders were here..... they would be more than ten times more powerful than us! Good luck going up against them!” The connotations of what he said sent shivers down everyone’s spines.

12th calmly asked, “How do you differentiate between the people from

upper levels and lower levels?”

Fu Ye Jie said, “Stop dreaming, it would be impossible for you to disguise yourselves as people from the upper levels!”

12th smiled, “Smart! You guessed that?” He stood up and said, “Master, I’m done here.” Qi Nan Shan smiled, “He asked everything that should’ve been asked, I don’t have anything more to add. Elder have you got any questions left?”

Luo Jie asked, “Where are you all gathering?”

“East,” answered Fu Ye Jie, “don’t torture me, just kill me, please!” he knew the hopelessness of his situation and realised that trying to escape was futile. All he could do was beg for a quick death.

Qi Nan Shan nodded, “Very well, you deserve this much!” Raising his hand, he struck the prisoner once, killing him.

Then, from far away, the sound of the trap rung.

Chapter 4: Hunting Chariots

Luo Jie whispered, “The trap has been triggered! 12th, good idea, now gather everything and keep moving!”

12th said, “Master, we should try to avoid them. According to Fu Ye Jie, their power is far beyond what we can handle. Hopefully we can avoid them long enough for the Mysterious Land to kick us out, otherwise..... we’ll be in trouble.”

Qi Nan Shan suddenly sat up, looked around, then quietly commanded, “Everyone hide! Go! Go! Go!”

12th, without much thought, hid next to a giant rock. It was thick with grass and even had a tree covering it. Waves of noise came through the air soon after everyone hid. It was the zooming sound of something moving really fast and as the noise got louder and louder, everyone then saw it.

There were at least one hundred hunting chariots zooming through the air; each one about ten meters apart. It was frightening how crowded they were. The ones hiding in the thickets all paled. They wouldn’t be able to handle a couple dozen of those, let alone one hundred! Individual power had nothing to do with this, they were far outnumbered; this was the advantage of preparation.

One of the chariots suddenly zoomed towards them; a ray of golden light of about a hundred meters swept across the forest, the trees fell one after the other. Thankfully, the light was far away enough, or else it

would've forced them out of hiding. Luo Jie couldn't help but stare in amazement. That was a Super Fu Greatsword, it was stronger than an ordinary Ancient Fu; it was very possible that that was a True Ancient Fu that Li Ran mentioned.

That chariot circled the area once and didn't find anything, so it rejoined with the group. There was cold sweat running down Luo Jie's forehead, realising that they, indeed, were caught in a helpless situation. After waiting for fifteen minutes, he quietly said, "Nan Shan, gather everyone and retreat southward!"

12th whispered, "Master, we ought to go East!"

Luo Jie raised his brow, "Why's that?"

12th said, "Well, we can't outrun hunting chariots that can fly, especially since they have such large numbers. Should they discover us..... we wouldn't be able to escape at all. As such, we should head towards their gathering point; they shouldn't be patrolling that area as rigorously as all the way out here, so unless they launch a full scale search in the area, we should be able to hide there!"

Qi Nan Shan agreed, quietly saying, "He's got a point, Elder!"

Luo Jie understood what 12th had said, that that was their only option. He lightly patted 12th's head, smiled, and said, "You really are so smart, 12th. Alright we'll listen to him, head East!"

The twenty odd people, under the cover of the forest, snuck their way

eastward. Because of the gloom casted by the trees, it was hard for anybody to spot them at a cursory glance.

Luo Zhan said, “We need to have a backup plan. If we hide long enough for the Mysterious Land to close, then we’ll be out of here.”

Luo Jie swallowed a breath, saying, “If we didn’t fight with those people with Fu Ye Jie, then that could work. However, it’ll be difficult now, we need to keep moving lest we be found by their search parties. They have flying chariots so it’s easier for them to move around.”

Luo Zhan nodded, saying, “12th, I’ll carry you.”

Everyone set off again; this time, increasing in carefulness. After seeing that golden Fu Sword’s power, they all understood that should they be discovered, they wouldn’t have a hope of escaping alive, let alone returning to their own land.

Under Qi Nan Shan’s instructions, everyone moved at a moderate pace, being very careful, and trying to leave as little of a trace as possible. Even though it was difficult, everyone tried their best. Two Fu Masters deliberately stayed at the back to cover their tracks.

12th, hanging from Luo Zhan’s back, was very worried, thinking, “Upper and lower levels of the FuZhou Land? What does this mean? Where was Li Ran from? He’s basically stronger than the people from the Upper levels. Argh! This world is too complicated!”

With the knowledge from his past life, it was very difficult to

understand this world, but the phenomenon of reincarnation was all the harder to understand. He sighed and decided to not think any more about it, as he focused on staying alive. But looking at his present situation, even staying alive seemed difficult.

While 12th thought about everything, the group pressed on silently.

After half a day, two more chariots passed them. It was thanks to Qi Nan Shan's foresight and everyone's fast reactions that they successfully avoided them.

12th was carefully watching the surroundings. The forest was getting thinner, and he couldn't help but feel uneasy; are they about to exit the forest? They could only hide from the chariots under the cover of the forest, but as soon as they got to a flat plain, there would be no chance of survival.

The group stopped. Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan also noticed this problem, which was why they called everyone to stop. Qi Nan Shan said, "Spread out and rest. 12th, come with me."

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan always treated 12th like a grown man; in their eyes, this boy was attentive and decisive, and would often provide an idea that nobody else would think of. In this moment, one extra head for ideas was better for everybody.

12th came and said straightforwardly, "Master, if we keep going..... I'm afraid that we'll leave the forest; that's detrimental to us, we can't afford to lose the cover of the trees."

Luo Jie said, “Of course, we mustn’t leave the forest. But that means we can’t keep going this way, so which direction do we go now?”

Qi Nan Shan shook his head saying, “That’s the problem!”

12th said, “Don’t decide yet, send some people to scout the area ahead to see what is really there.”

Qi Nan Shan, “Haha, pressure will cause us to make mistakes..... Good thing 12th is collected as always. Alright, I’ll send someone immediately.” He called over two Fu Masters and told them to go scout ahead, saying, “Whatever you find, try to come back within half an hour.”

The two of them ran through the thickets so fast that it was like they flew. Qi Nan Shan said, “We should prepare ourselves. In case there’s danger, we’ll be at least somewhat prepared, rather than stumbling over our hands and feet.”

Luo Jie nodded, “Yeah, let’s plan.”

Very quickly, an emergency plan was made; it wasn’t a particularly detailed plan. 12th was at a loss; because he didn’t know the strength of every Fu Master there, he couldn’t think of too many ideas. Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan decided that the purpose of this plan was firstly, to protect 12th and the other four children, and then the safety of everyone else.

At the North Fu Sect, for any person with power, the most basic duty was to protect posterity and to ensure the safety of the next generation. The next generation was the hope and future of the Sect, as such, viewing

12th and the other children as the most important people, wasn't strange. It was also something that made 12th quite emotional.

Everyone rushed to eat and drink. Unfortunately, they couldn't start a fire; otherwise, drinking a nice bowl of warm soup would've been the best.

The two Fu Masters who went to scout came back shortly, one of them said, "There's a hill up ahead. We went up to take a look and found a few hundred chariots. It looked like they were surrounding something, there were also flashes of their artillery being shot."

12th asked, "It's not forest up ahead?"

The other Fu Master said, "There are low lying trees, it's possible to hide but it's also easy to be discovered, it's not as safe as in the forest."

Qi Nan Shan asked, "You said a few hundred chariots? What are they gathering around?"

"We don't know, it was too far. We could only see it faintly..... it didn't look like they were surrounding people, they might've been surrounding a Fu Beast."

As soon as he finished, a faint cry was heard. They didn't know what Fu Beast it was; they couldn't believe that they could hear the sound this far away. 12th said, "This place is already too dangerous, we need to quickly leave."

Luo Jie said, “You’re right, we need to find somewhere to hide and rest a day or two, see what happens then.”

12th disagreed, “Master, we can’t stop. Even if we’re scurrying through the forest, we still can’t stop..... As soon as we’re surrounded, we wouldn’t even get the chance to retaliate. The hunting chariots are too powerful, we have to keep moving constantly. It’s the only way to confuse the enemy and given enough time, they’ll stop searching themselves..... Now isn’t the time to be resting.”

Luo Jie thought for a moment and asked, “Nan Shan, what do you think?”

Qi Nan Shan was also hesitant. He was in the same position as Luo Jie, they must be responsible for the entire group. He said, “Everyone is already exhausted.....”

12th couldn’t help but say, “Master, Grandpa Nan Shan, a little more tiredness won’t kill them..... Getting discovered by the chariots will kill us! I’d rather be half-dead from exhaustion than be killed by those people!”

Luo Jie laughed at that, saying, “So pessimistic! Have a little optimism..... Your Master is a Great FuZhou Master. To kill me, heh, we’ll see how much they’re willing to sacrifice for that!”

12th smiled bitterly, “Master, no sacrifice is enough to trade your life, I don’t want you to die.” That was 12th expressing his desire, he didn’t want to see his Master in grave danger.

Qi Nan Shan said, “12th is right, as long as we can get out this time, if we record our position in our own land into the Fu Door, then in the future, we’ll be able to come and go as we please, we won’t need to fear those people! Let’s keep moving then..... So fucking aggravating.”

Luo Jie also decided, saying, “Alright then, let’s continue!”

It didn’t matter how aggravating it was, this was their duty overwhelming their power. The most irritating part was that the enemy wasn’t even strong, they just had numbers. Even if they fought, Luo Jie wouldn’t even care, but for now, they must keep fleeing. He needed to make sure his disciple stayed alive; if they started fighting, 12th wouldn’t be able to escape at all.

The group gathered and changed their direction as they continued. Luo Jie didn’t want to take the group out of the forest, so they must move around the edge of the forest; this way, they could go deeper into the forest at any time.

The paths that they took were all decided by 12th. It was like a maze; sometimes east, sometimes west, other times north and south. They moved around non-stop, moving randomly, and rarely staying in one place for longer than 8 hours. By moving around constantly, they successfully avoided being discovered a few times. There were a few times were Luo Jie really wanted to strike, but he remembered his young disciple, and so, forced himself to resist his urge to attack.

As a Great FuZhou Master, he was one of the strongest people in the North Fu Sect, and had it not been for his good upbringing, it would’ve been very hard to ignore the enemy’s arrogance. Those bastards chased them relentlessly for more than four months. During that time, they ate

and slept badly, their supplies were pretty much gone, and they didn't dare to hunt openly – it was very frustrating.

As their supplies dwindled day by day, it became harder and harder to survive.

Two days have already passed without any sign of the chariots, everyone started to relax a little. 12th, on the other hand, didn't relax at all. He found Luo Jie and said, "Master, I have a bad feeling about this!"

Luo Jie was surprised, 12th's instincts have had plenty of experience, and as such, they were very sharp, which was why he respected those instincts, so he asked, "We haven't seen the chariots in two days, surely they've given up by now?"

12th smiled bitterly, "I don't know what the problem is which is frustrating, but I think..... I think we should head backwards, toward the mountain....."

Luo Jie shook his head saying, "12th, you can't possibly still remember the way back there....."

12th said, "Yeah, I've long since forgotten. I don't even know where we are right now, but I feel like going back there is the only way we can ensure our safety."

Qi Nan Shan said, "We can't even find our way back to those ruins, let alone the mountain. Haha, looks like we're truly lost; although we shouldn't worry, we just need to wait until the Mysterious Land closes,

then even if we're lost, it wouldn't be a problem."

12th was perpetually frustrated, he said, "I don't know..... Should we carry on ahead or go back, or maybe stay here and not move. Since we don't have any reasonable route to go, I always feel like there's a trap waiting for us, but the question is where..... As long as we avoid this one, then we'll be safe!"

Luo Jie consoled him, "12th, this isn't your responsibility, it's mine."

12th shook his head saying, "Master, your responsibilities are also my responsibilities; as long as I am able, I will help you carry this burden."

Luo Jie sighed, patted 12th's shoulder and said, "12th, you should rest, you've been tired for a while now."

12th was indeed very tired, but he wasn't so tired that he was about to collapse. He said, "Master, we still can't rest yet. Whatever the case, we can't stay in one spot too long."

Luo Jie said, "I know, but you go sleep and relax a little, maybe afterwards you'll feel better."

12th took his Master's words to heart, nodded and said, "Alright, I'll go sleep a bit. Remember to wake me, I only need to sleep around two hours." The child lacks sleep; even though he's trained his spirit so he doesn't require as much sleep as usual, but some sleep was still required to ameliorate the fatigue.

He slept for four hours straight. Luo Jie purposely didn't wake him so he could let his disciple rest a bit longer.

When 12th woke up, he asked, "What time is it? How long did I sleep?"

Huo Bao said, "It's almost light."

12th panicked a little, asking, "Why haven't we left this place already?"

Huo Bao said, "Your Master wanted you to rest more, he said that you've exerted yourself too much recently....."

12th smiled bitterly, "I know, Master wants what's best for me..... Huo Bao, you guys hurry and gather your things and prepare to leave, I'll go see Master."

Most of the people already finished gathering their things, ready to leave. 12th found Luo Jie, saying, "Master, we should leave this place now."

Luo Jie asked, "How was your rest?"

12th said, "Master, I've rested well, but we can't stay here for much longer, it's best that we leave as soon as possible."

Qi Nan Shan said, "Elder, we should leave soon."

Luo Jie said, “Go! Nan Shan, send some people to scout ahead, we’ll head deeper into the forest.”

Everyone immediately left, heading deeper into the woods. This time, they travelled in a straight line, hoping that they could get deep enough into the woods faster.

.....

At noon, the group arrived at a hill; there was a small stream enclosed by the forest. Luo Jie said, “We’ll rest here for one hour. Hurry and eat, then we’ll continue on!”

“There’s a mountain up ahead!”

The scouting party reported back. At that moment, everyone all roused; this meant that they could flee that way to avoid being hunted. As long as they were in a mountainous region, those hunting chariots will be less effective. Even if they were discovered, it would be easier to retaliate. This would be much more advantageous than flat plains, where as soon as their positions were known, the other chariots would be able to surround them and cut off any escape routes.

12th guessed that the hunting chariots would need to be careful of where they fly in a mountainous area, he had noticed that the chariots had a very limited altitude.

Qi Nan Shan said, “Everyone, persevere for a while longer and get to the mountain region as fast as possible. There, we can rest for longer.”

His words felt more relaxed now. After running for their lives for a few months, everyone was already exhausted to the limit; their fighting power had decreased a lot as a result, it was best for them to rest a while.

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan both felt lucky. 12th was the most important person in this expedition into the Mysterious Lands. The little guy's actions were extraordinary; nobody knew where he learn it all from, his ability to escape goes far beyond normal. It was like he had a new idea every time he blinked, setting disruptive traps one after the other, making them travel in the strangest, most unpredictable patterns. He loved to set traps in the most ingenious of places, thoroughly annoying the pursuing enemy.

The group made their way through the forest. After a few months of flight, they were rather accustomed to the forest, so their speed was very fast; it only took them a day to reach near the foot of the mountain.

The summit was very high; from where they were, it was very easy to see the snowy cap. The entire group tilted their heads back to see the top; there were about a dozen black dots circling it, they looked like large birds – like eagles or buzzards. 12th smiled bitterly, “The remaining distance to the foot of the mountain is very dangerous, there's no cover at all, I estimate..... If we rushed as fast as possible, it would take twenty minutes at least.”

“We need to go even if it's dangerous, it shouldn't be that easy to spot us!” Qi Nan Shan said closing his eyes.

Luo Jie said, “Yeah, we have to rush over. This bit of empty flat plain only has low grass and small trees, it's impossible to hide. If there's a chariot nearby, as soon as we walk out, we'll be found.”

12th turned and said, “Why don’t we wait until nightfall, there’s no better cover than the cover of darkness!”

Luo Jie slapped his forehead saying, “Oh Nan Shan, we really are getting old. Absolutely! We’ll wait for nightfall, that shouldn’t be a problem.”

Qi Nan Shan nodded, saying, “Alright, everyone rest up, we set off at nightfall.”

Everyone was very tired; the second they were told to rest, each one of them fell down on the ground. If it weren’t for the fact that they needed to eat, they would’ve all fallen asleep. It would be hard to recover their strength without food.

There wasn’t much food left at all. Good thing in his past life, 12th was deathly afraid of starvation; he’d rather bring less of something else as long as he was carrying enough food. Now, most of the food had run out; only the five children could bring out some food to share with everyone. It was primarily braised pork – since that stuff was quite filling and didn’t spoil easily – so it would last a long time inside a Hidden Fu Bag.

12th ate heartily, he said, “If it wasn’t for these Hidden Fu Bags, I’m afraid we would have died a long time ago. Oh, if only there was some warm soup, that would’ve been nice!”

Huo Bao swallowed a bite of the pork, saying, “Warm soup, bread, it’s all finished. We even brought some fresh meat, but it’s a shame that we can’t light a fire to cook it.”

Hong Shi smiled, “Just be thankful that we even have food. If it wasn’t for 12th’s amazing foresight to bring all of this food, everyone would’ve starved by now.”

Chen Bing said, “After this meal, if we can successfully enter the mountain, then we can cook our food.”

Qi Nan Shan was pacing back and forth, occasionally reminding everyone, “After you finish eating, take a rest, be cautious of staying hidden, try to hide yourself as best as possible, and don’t be careless..... If anybody doesn’t hide well and so causes the enemy to find us, I’ll kill you first!”

They were at the edge of the forest. The trees, there, were strange; the edge was very uniform, it was as though someone cut the forest down the middle. One side was crowded with large trees, the other side was just grassland with the occasional tree here and there – the line of separation was obvious.

Two Fu Warriors stayed up as watchmen while the others all hid in the forest, sleeping.

Ever since they trained together, Chen Hong had grown close with 12th. Of course, she was still young and there weren’t any wrong ideas to be had, but she had just grown used to being by 12th’s side. Good thing 12th wasn’t even ten years old yet. Able to feign innocence, it wasn’t a big deal for Chen Hong to be following him; it was just as if they were siblings.

Chen Hong quietly said, “12th, there isn’t much food left.”

12th was hiding beneath a tree, turning his head to see a worrying Chen Hong. He smiled and asked, “What are you worried about? Don’t worry, after we reach the mountain, we’ll be able to hunt and eat fresh meat; stop worrying and rest will you? I’ll wake you up when it’s time to leave.” Chen Hong nodded, and lying next to 12th, she fell asleep holding onto his sleeve.

The sky gradually darkened, the giant birds all flew back to their nests with the occasional squawk. 12th shook Chen Hong lightly, and said quietly, “Hey, wake up! Chen Hong, you can get up now, we’re about to leave.”

Chen Hong slowly opened her eyes and asked, “Huh? Is it time to leave already?”

12th said quietly, “It’s almost dusk; as soon as it’s dark enough, we’re leaving.” He gathered his little companions, and said, “Wait until we start moving, there’ll be people coming to carry us. Remember, do not make a sound, cooperate with the person carrying you as best as possible, and don’t distract them.”

Qi Nan Shan squatted next to an ancient tree, carefully watching ahead, planning their route. At that moment, about a kilometer away in the forest, there was a large commotion which scared all of the roosted birds to take flight. Surprised, he wondered, “What alarmed the birds?”

Suddenly, from the forest, a large group of people moved swiftly towards the mountain.

Luo Jie and 12th both felt that something was off, and quickly arrived next to Qi Nan Shan. Luo Jie asked, “What’s wrong?” 12th’s eyes were sharp and he could see the sprinting group of people of about 100, all running as fast as possible.

“It’s the Beast Raising Fu Sect! This is a big problem!”

12th said, “They’re running too carelessly and openly, they’ll be discovered for sure!”

Qi Nan Shan looked around and his expression changed slightly, he said, “12th, you were right! They’re coming!”

Luo Jie cursed, “Those sons of bitches! They’re fucking stupid!”

Chapter 5: Warfare

Part 1:

12th nodded, “I’ve seen stupid..... but this is ridiculous! Now our escape path has been cut off, we need to retreat immediately! They might drag us down with them!”

Qi Nan Shan quietly said, “Fuck, everyone stay hidden, stay still for now!”

12th looked up at the sky; he could only see the dozens of light of all colours heading towards them. Those were the trails left by the chariots due to their immense speed. The chariots were already closing the distance between themselves and the Beast Raising Fu Sect.

However, the distance between Luo Jie’s group and the Beast Raising Fu Sect was not that great. It seems like they too had also been victims of the hunters’ attacks. Some of the members of the Beast Raising Fu Sect screamed and cried in despair upon seeing the chariots fly towards them so quickly. A dozen or so Beast Warriors stopped and each one of them gritted their teeth while waiting, for they were going to try and delay the chariots for as long as possible to give their comrades enough time to escape.

A dozen chariots together were incredibly powerful. It wasn’t that the people from the Beast Raising Fu Sect were that weak, but if they were going up against chariots that could fly around swiftly in the sky, then they would obviously perish.

Qi Nan Shan quietly said, “I think the Great Zhou Beast Master Lu Ning is amongst them, heh, this’ll be interesting..... It doesn’t matter where they are, because the power of someone who possesses the title Great Master shouldn’t be underestimated!”

The Beast Warriors released their Beast Spirits, each one of them gaining Beast Fu Armour, each watching the sky viciously.

The group that was still running stopped for a second. They could see Lu Ning exhale his Innate Fu Book, then, with his hands, gracefully tap his Innate Fu Book like a pianist, which caused tens of bright green lights to rise up into the air. He continued to chant and summon Fu Beasts as the air filled with shrieks, roars and howls, followed by the call of an eagle. Even a few dozen Giant Eagles with wingspans of five to six meters had appeared.

12th was shocked, “Those are Lightning Eagles!”

Luo Jie said, “That Fu was created with the Lightning Eagle’s Spirit, very formidable.”

The convocation of Lightning Eagles briefly flew in a circle before flying straight at the chariots. Lu Ning roared and the few Beast Warriors that had stopped to hold back the enemy turned and ran. It seems those Beast Warriors had voluntarily stayed behind to delay the enemy and Lu Ning didn’t want them to be sacrificed in vain, so he personally stopped and showed his hand.

This displayed the power of a Great Zhou Beast Master, for after the

Lightning Eagles have been summoned they basically don't need instructions, they'll automatically attack the enemy. Lu Ning and his little group took the opportunity to retreat.

A few moments later, as the chariots neared the Lightning Eagles, dozens of artillery rounds were fired. The Lightning Eagles cried sharply as a few dozen lightning bolts shot from their beaks. These bolts were as thick as a forearm and lit up the twilight sky as they intercepted the volley of shots fired by the hunters.

Violent explosions were followed with balls of fire in the sky as a chariot that was flying too fast shot straight into a fireball created by the explosions. There were erratic flashing lights and another earth-shattering explosion sounded. The chariot was decimated. The people on board didn't have any time to escape, so they all died on impact.

One of the chariots shot a beam of red light into the air, bursting at the top in the sky. It was an SOS flare asking for reinforcements.

All of the Lightning Eagles targeted one chariot at a time, ignoring all the projectiles being fired at them. Since they flew so fast, it was very hard to hit even one of them. At that point in time all of the chariots had shot down a total of two or three Lightning Eagles.

After the flare was shot, numerous streaks of light appeared from afar. Qi Nan Shan squinted to see, and a moment later he sighed, saying, "Those bastards couldn't win so they cried for help. There are at least a hundred chariots coming! There might even be more following them. We really can't move now. We're screwed!"

12th calmly told him, “The sky is almost dark, the darkness of night is the best cover, we still have a chance.”

Luo Jie nodded, “The chance is there, but..... with so many chariots, we need to prepare for the worst!”

The chariots were too fast, Lu Ning’s group had only reached half way, right in the middle between the mountain region and the forest in which was a flat plain completely exposed from above, as the chariots caught up to them.

There wasn’t just one hundred chariots, there were two. The sky was filled with them. Two hundred chariots might not sound like a great deal, but when looking at them it’s frightening. If there are six people on each chariot, then on two hundred chariots there are 1200 people to deal with the hundred or so people on the ground. They were at a complete advantage.

The two hundred chariots attacked. Lu Ning was heartbroken, for those dozen Lightning Eagles couldn’t hold them back anymore and were quickly annihilated. After the Lightning Eagles are summoned they can be returned; however, if they can no longer be returned then their Fu inside the Innate Fu Book would become useless. Losing so many Lightning Eagles in such a short span of time, of course Lu Ning was heartbroken. He gritted his teeth, chanted a few Fu Incantations and yelled, “Burst! Destroy those sons of bitches!”

The Lightning Eagles acted as if they were injected with pure adrenaline as each one of them went crazy, swiftly flying high into the sky before they descended from the sky like a diving bird of prey, each firing streaks of lightning. The Lightning Eagles each zoned in on a

different chariot and dove headfirst into them. Due to their fast speed, sharp sounds were constantly being emanated from their bodies.

12th thought that they sounded just like bombs as they fell from the sky from his past life. That high pitched, whistling sound gave him shivers.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

If a chariot was aimed at it wouldn't have had a chance to dodge, for the power of the Lightning Eagles' kamikaze was too great. A large group of chariots were destroyed as they got caught in each explosion.

12th was shocked, "Shit! That was..... Is that the power of a Great Zhou Beast Master? Why didn't he do that from the start? If he had attacked with this from the beginning then maybe those people wouldn't have been able to fire their flare."

Luo Jie explained, "At the Great Master level such powers shouldn't be taken lightly. I don't think Lu Ning could bear to open with suicide tactics, he probably cared for his Lightning Eagles too much, after all, it takes a lot of effort and resources to create Lightning Eagle Fu..... With this attack, a great number of those Lightning Eagle Fu were destroyed. I think he's used them all up now."

Lu Ning clenched his teeth and shouted, "I'm taking you all down with me!" as he opened his Innate Fu Book once more, and with both hands continuously tapping dozens of red haze shot into the sky. It dissipated to reveal countless flying Vampire Bats.

This time Luo Jie was so shocked his face grew pale. He exclaimed, “Vampire Bats! Where did that guy find such horrifying creatures?! Those things are terrifying!”

Lu Ning smiled cruelly, “Go to hell!”. This was his last hurrah. At first he had plenty of Fu Beasts capable of aerial combat, but in the process of escaping the hunters he used up most of them. He only had two left for this fight: one was the Lightning Eagle, the other was the Vampire Bats.

“Kill them all!”

A scream emanated from one of the chariots.

In that moment, two chariots fell from the sky. When the chariot was less than a hundred meters from the ground, six silhouettes shot from the chariot, followed by a man who ordered, “Illuminate the area and search carefully. Don’t let a single one escape! At this point take them dead or alive, I don’t care which!”

Beams of light appeared one after another from the chariots, shining onto the ground. 12th cursed, “Fuck..... As if there’s a difference between these and the searchlights. These are even bigger and brighter.....”

Suddenly, from one chariot, countless Fu Arrows were shot. These Fu Arrows were different from the type that 12th had seen before. He had the feeling that these things weren’t Fu Arrows but were actually something similar to machine gun rounds, for the sheer volume of shots was terrifying, especially since as soon as they hit something, they would explode. Even though the power of the explosion was mediocre, the numbers made up for it. This one round of shots exterminated over half

the Vampire Bats.

12th said quietly, “They prepared too well.”

Luo Jie replied, “Yeah. Simple, efficient and powerful!”

Qi Nan Shan called Luo Zhan and quietly told him, “If we get discovered, you need to carry 12th and escape. Remember, protect 12th with your life.”

Luo Zhan nodded, “Don’t worry, even if I should die, I’ll protect him!”

Luo Jie’s group were already down two Fu Warriors, so there were only twenty three of them and of those twenty three, five were children with next to no battle presence. If the rest of the eighteen tried to take on the few hundred chariots there would be almost entirely no chance of winning.

Six more silhouettes dropped from a chariot and made their way to Lu Ning’s company.

People from the Beast Raising Fu Sect screamed as soon as they made contact. Those six hunters killed six people in the blink of an eye. Qi Nan Shan’s pupil contracted as he quietly said, “Those people are professional.....”

12th quietly asked, “Grandpa Nan Shan..... how do they compare to you?”

“Incomparable..... I’m a Great Fu Master. At most they are as strong as

Fu Masters, but their preparations are excellent. Look carefully, their Fu Armour is very strange, they aren't made from the same materials as ours back home, so their defensive capabilities are very high.” answered Qi Nan Shan.

The Great Zhou Beast Master yelled, “Surround them!” as he summoned two Spirit Beasts, roaring as they attacked the six people.

12th said quietly, “Stupid, fighting even now..... They're even failing at dying!”

Qi Nan Shan sighed, “You can't really blame him, as a Great Master he's usually the more powerful than everyone, so as soon as he gets insulted or attacked his first reaction would be to kill the opponent..... If it were not for how outnumbered they were, the Beast Raising Fu Sect wouldn't be fleeing. To humiliate a Great Master like this..... They won't get away with it!”

Luo Jie said, “Looking at it now..... the chariots, although they're fast and are a very good platform to attack from, they aren't actually that scary. They also have their weaknesses, but it's a shame that we have too few people, for if we had a Great Zhou Master with us, heh, even if a hundred more chariots came it wouldn't be a problem.”

12th said, “Master, they all came here to train and aren't experts, so we still have a chance. If they're all as strong as a Great Master then we won't even stand a chance.”

The six attackers retreated defensively. The Great Zhou Beast Master's two summoned Spirit Beasts lead the chase, while some of other Beast Warriors followed and chased relentlessly. It seemed as if those six people were overwhelmed, but one of them gave a signal and a few

chariots came their way and fired countless Fu Arrows at the chasers.

Waves of laughter came from the chariots, even the people hiding far away like 12th could hear it clearly. The Fu Arrows struck them down as if they were cutting grass. Seven or eight Fu Warriors fell, and the two Spirit Beasts' bodies dimmed as well.

Lu Ning once again tapped on his Innate Fu Book a couple of times and out came two more Spirit Beasts, with one in the shape of a tiger and the other the shape of a bear. It seemed like he found it hard to follow up on attacks now, for losing a great deal of Beast Fu, to them, is the same as diminishing their combat abilities a great deal.

Those six people were surrounded by the four Spirit Beasts, and one of them shouted, "Retreat!" as another one gave a signal and two chariots came as cover. In the commotion, the six people jumped onto the chariots and escaped.

Part 2:

Lu Ning's eyes spewed rage, having those chariots seemed like cheating—they were easy to both attack and retreat with. How was he supposed to fight that? Only now did he realise the situation as he called, "Retreat! Everyone retreat!"

12th, hidden afar, quietly said, "Idiot. *Now* he retreats? Even if he wants to, he can't now..... both the path ahead and behind are blocked off, where could they retreat to?"

Luo Jie laughed bitterly, “It’s a shame, since I only just noticed that we aren’t weaker than those hunters, we just lack resources and preparation..... If we had the same amount of preparation we wouldn’t be weaker than them at all!” He gave a sigh and continued, “If I had more Spirit Fu and Ancient Fu, or some of those True Spirit Fu and True Ancient Fu that Li Ran mentioned, then there would be no need to fear them at all!”

12th replied, “We won’t be able to obtain any of those unless we go to their homeland.”

“How are we meant to get there though...?” Luo Zhan wondered out loud.

12th shook his head, “I don’t know, although, if they can get to this Mysterious Land then they must be able to return. If we find out how they get back home, hehe, then there is a chance we can get there too.”

Luo Jie said, “More importantly we have no way to return to our own homeland, let alone theirs.”

Qi Nan Shan said, “It can’t be helped, this is our first time in this Mysterious Land and we don’t know the rules of this place, so all we can do now is wait.”

The battle increased in intensity as people from the Beast Raising Fu Sect were dying left and right. 12th quietly said with a sigh, “Even though those guys are all bastards, I’d much rather kill them personally than see them massacred by those other fuckers!”

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan both nodded in agreement, even Luo Zhan nodded, saying quietly, “Yeah, those bastards are too evil.”

The sky continued to darken, and only the place where Lu Ning’s men were was being lit up by torches from the chariots. The ground looked like a graveyard with both corpses and injured men still alive. A few of the chariots landed and about a dozen people descended and quickly grabbed the injured people, bringing them aboard the chariots.

“Slaves!”

Luo Jie said, “Those people are the spoils of war!”

Indeed, the people from the Beast Raising Fu Sect fell one after another, but the hunters didn’t kill them, instead they were captured and hauled on board.

The people around the Great Zhou Beast Master Lu Ning began to dwindle, with only a dozen or so somewhat skilled Beast Warriors, six of which protected him persistently, as his last defense.

He was a Great Zhou Master, but the number of Beast Fu in his Innate Fu Book had decreased, and so did his options. He watched numerous Spirit Beasts being killed, so with anger he yelled, grabbing his Innate Fu Book, and tore out a page, fiercely ripping it out, and threw it.

Luo Jie’s body tensed, quietly saying, “He’s betting it all on this!”

The silvery page of the Innate Fu Book flew across as it spiraled in the

air. “Go to hell!” Yelled Lu Ning.

A beam of silver light shone and the page crumbled to pieces as Lu Ning spat out a mouthful of blood. That blood separated into droplets which shot through the air, combining with the pieces of silvery paper. They formed countless wild beasts of all shapes and sizes, that spread across all directions.

12th was stunned speechless, asking, “What the hell is that?”

Luo Jie calmly said, “A Great Zhou Beast Master’s Innate Fu Book is comprised of countless wild beast spirits. To create one page there must be at least over a hundred thousand wild beasts sacrificed. Once that page combines with a Great Zhou Beast Master’s blood, it will transform into Spirit Beasts more ferocious than you can imagine. These Spirit Beasts are different to their corresponding wild beasts for they have terribly destructive capabilities.”

Qi Nan Shan said, “Here it comes again..... Look!”

12th raised his head and watched; he couldn’t help but sigh, “It’s..... beautiful.”

A few hundred chariots flew with rainbow trails, slicing through the night sky. 12th suddenly said, “Those are a different group of people! They aren’t with the hunters currently fighting!”

Luo Jie watched carefully for a moment and asked, “You mean the colour of the chariots?”

12th answered, “Yes! Holy shit! What power!”

Lu Ning’s gamble offered results within the space of a few minutes. With one attack he destroyed over twenty chariots. The people on board weren’t terrible injured, but the chariots were all destroyed.

With another yell, Lu Ning ripped another page from his Innate Fu Book. This time he immediately spat blood onto the page before throwing it out.

This was Lu Ning’s true power. As he watched the chariots almost arriving, he thought that if they didn’t get an opportunity to escape now then they never would.

“Variant Fu Beast Spirit!”

Luo Jie almost called out, as he said, “This guy is truly terrifying, he even has the spirit of a Variant Fu Beast!”

12th witnessed first-hand the power of a Variant Fu Beast, a near-death Variant Earth Dragon still had terrifying strength. If this guy was able to obtain the spirit of a Variant Fu Beast, and even made it into one of the pages in his Innate Fu Book, he indeed must be powerful.

It was a Variant Lynx with dark turquoise fur and two glowing eyes. It wasn’t particularly big, about two meters long, and since it was a spirit it was able to levitate. As soon as it appeared in the air, the surrounding temperature immediately dropped. This was a Variant Frost Lynx.

Lu Ning yelled with rage, “Kill them all!”

That Frost Lynx moved so quickly it was like it disappeared. It attacked a chariot with lightning speed, and in that moment that chariot froze and became covered in thick ice. The Frost Lynx gave an ear-piercing screech, and with that, the frozen chariot fell from the sky. It smashed into pieces with a boom, and from the wreckage a few people managed to crawl out.

Countless Fu Arrows were fired at the Frost Lynx, however its speed was stunning. With how flexible it was, and its ability to tread air and its dark turquoise fur, it was very difficult to pin down.

Only a dozen chariots were left still attacking the people as unrelenting Fu Arrows and sniper rifles limited their movements, preventing them from escaping. The remaining chariots turned to deal with the Frost Lynx.

12th laughed bitterly, “I’m afraid that those few hundred chariots might be chasing after us!”

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan had both noticed this as well, as their faces darkened. 12th was right, it was indeed the chariots that had chased them for months. It’s almost been half a year, but those bastards hunted them down relentlessly, not letting up at all. They were only stuck here for so long before the hunters had caught up.

A few hundred chariots joined the search, ignoring the fight, and immediately went to cut off the mountain region. 12th solemnly said,

“There’s at least three hundred chariots!”

“Hey! What’s the Fu Clan doing here? This is our DaZhou Clan’s prey. You’re trespassing!”

“I’m sorry to inform you but we have been chasing them for almost half a year; they killed our people! Can you please leave? They are our prey!”

“Bullshit! They’re our clan’s spoils of war! Fuck right off! Don’t fucking provoke us!”

12th quietly cheered, “Come on! Fight! Cuss them back! Start fighting!”

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan couldn’t help but smile, knowing that the enemy had found the wrong people. Qi Nan Shan said quietly, “Pass it down and make sure everyone is well hidden. Don’t move or make a noise!”

The message was passed from one person to the next—twenty three people quietly hidden in the forest. As long as the enemy didn’t deliberately search there, it would be unlikely that they would be discovered. Only when Lu Ning’s company has been defeated completely and when the chariots had left would they have any chance of escaping into the mountain region. However right now they couldn’t move an inch.

After destroying a few dozen of chariots, the Frost Lynx finally succumbed. It dissipated into the air as its spirit scattered. At this moment Lu Ning was also close to his limit. He ripped out two pages of

his Innate Fu Book in quick succession, an incredibly draining act. He changed greatly compared to when he first arrived in the Mysterious Land, for at that time he had a great number of Beast Fu prepared, but after half a year, because he was unable to restock on Beast Fu, his strength had waned. He didn't even have any Beast Fu for transport anymore, or else he could have escaped easily and wouldn't have been surrounded in this flat plain.

The chariots surrounded them all, with one guy shouting, "Just surrender! Your power has already earned our respect, if you surrender and pledge allegiance to the DaZhou Clan, you need not be slaves!"

Lu Ning screamed in reply, "Go fuck your mother AND her sharts! I'd rather die than surrender! Come at me! How about you fuckers start showing off your shitty abilities instead of your fucking numbers!"

12th couldn't help but praise him, "He's a real soldier!"

The Fu Clan members didn't say anything, and it seemed like the DaZhou Clan was more powerful, so even though the Fu Clan had more chariots, the DaZhou Clan didn't care at all.

Lu Ning said, "Xiao Peng, you guys run for it, you'll have a better chance of surviving. Maybe you can even return home!"

The few Beast Warriors with Lu Ning shook their heads, as one of them said, "We won't ever surrender. we aren't afraid to die! Haha!"

There were quite a few members of the DaZhou Clan who were shot off

of their chariots.

A Great Master shouldn't be ignominious, that's obvious. There were very few powerful people, so it was exceedingly rare. The majority of them though were all high and mighty, which was because of how they were brought up, and since they were always proven to be better than everyone else, they were always more successful. They had a great deal of self-confidence, and were used to looking down on everybody.

The DaZhou Clan really wanted to recruit Lu Ning, for he put up one hell of a fight and was such a formidable opponent that everyone was impressed, even though they themselves have impressive fire power.

All of the attacks had ceased now, and Lu Ning's people had been surrounded with chariots circling the sky above them, and over a hundred powerful people on the ground. Lu Ning had already exhausted all of his Beast Fu and all that was left was his Innate Fu Book, and unless he tore another page out, he had no way to fight back. Unfortunately for Lu Ning he couldn't afford to tear more pages, as each page of his Innate Fu Book was linked to his life force, so should he tear too many pages then he wouldn't have long to live.

Until they had died, until had they lose all hope, none of them would accept defeat. Lu Ning still had a glimmer of hope in him, so for the moment he didn't plan on dying or giving up, because he noticed something, a secret that could save his life.

“Come out! Stop hiding! Don't think that if we all die you'll be able to escape!”

Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan's expressions both darkened at the same time. 12th, surprised, asked, "Bastard! How did he notice!?"

Chapter 6: Entering the Mountains

Luo Jie clenched his teeth and said, “He must’ve sent out small Spirit Beasts to do reconnaissance earlier, when he was looking for an escape... and he must’ve unwittingly found us that way...fuck! That bastard! Luo Zhan, carry 12th, and remember, your duty isn’t to fight, but to escape—carry 12th and escape!”

12th bit his lip, but stayed silent. He hated the people from the South Fu Sect with a passion, thus he likewise hated the FuYe clan as well.

Luo Jie said, “Nan Shan, my old friend! This time it seems that our only choice is to fight. If there’s a chance to escape, then take it without reservation. Don’t get too engrossed in the fight!”

Qi Nan Shan said, “Where should we go?”

Luo Jie said, “Into the mountains! Haha, we’ll go ahead and lure the enemy away first.... Luo Zhan, take the children, along with four other Fu Masters. Leave a short while after we do, and follow the edge of the forest in that direction. Once you’re far enough away, sprint towards the mountain region. Don’t stop for anything, and don’t worry about us! Once you get into the mountain region, hide. Don’t reveal yourselves. Wait there until we can leave this Mysterious Land—we’ll come back and find you!”

12th said calmly, “Master, make sure to come back to me, I’ll be waiting for you....Be safe, Master, Grandpa Nan Shan!” Deep down in his heart, he knew that Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan were very powerful, and that

without five children dragging them down, they should be able to escape.

Luo Jie briefly laid out the plans, before Lu Ning once again said, “Don’t make me have to point out your position!”

Luo Jie quietly said, “We’ll run backwards!” He wants the chariots to follow them into the forest. If they ran out into the open field, it’ll be suicide. With a couple hundreds of chariots surrounding them there would be no chance of escape. At least in the forest they have trees to cover them.

Ten people stayed still, while five Fu Masters took the children. Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan took the remaining eleven people, and sprinted deep into the forest. Qi Nan Shan laughed and said, “Point us out if you want, we’re leaving anyway, you have fun with those bastards—we won’t be joining you!”

The thirteen people quickly fled without covering their tracks at all, which made a rather loud ruckus. The chariots from the FuYe clan chased after them like a swarm of bees, because they figured that these people were the ones who’d attacked the clan.

Lu Ning raged and spat in anger, “Fine! Fine...” He was infuriated. He hadn’t thought that they’d run away with two Great Masters. His final, desperate plan had failed—what could he do now?

Luo Zhan’s group moved along the edge of the forest slowly. Luckily the sky was already dark, but they still moved with incredible care. Not even ten minutes had passed, when a dozen chariots flew to where they’d been hidden previously. There were sniper rifles sticking out of each of them,

and they destroyed countless trees. After seeing no movement, the chariots gave chasing into the forest again.

Luo Zhan broke out into a cold sweat; had it not been for 12th ushering them to move, that last attack would've completely revealed their position.

12th whispered into his ear, "Keep moving, don't stop!"

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Lu Ning had lost all hope now. Even though Luo Jie's people had drawn away the outer chariots away, the ones surrounding them hadn't moved at all, but had instead focused entirely on them. They couldn't do anything.

In desperation, he gave the command, "Run! Run back into the forest!" Lu Ning already understood that, even if they could rush into the mountain region, they wouldn't get very far into it—the opposing chariots could easily block off their path. It was better to retreat back into the forest, which provided a sliver of hope for survival.

The six Beast Warriors activated their Beast armour, and rushed desperately towards their enclosing enemy.

At that moment, a new chariot, much different than the others, flew closer, and two people hopped out of it. Like a whirlwind, they dashed forward—straight towards the Beast Warriors. One of them laughed and said, "I'll go right and you take the left, let's see who catches the most

between the two us!”

As soon as the two sides met, two of the Beasts Warriors were immediately taken down. Lu Ning instantly realised that these two people were at least as strong as Great Masters. These two had waited until now to take action, with one going left and one going right. They were like bamboo shards piercing through a crowd of people—nobody could stop them. The two of them arrived next to Lu Ning in the blink of an eye.

A Great Zhou Beast Master mustn’t let anyone get within melee range. As soon as someone came into that range, they’d have a lot less options, and become as weak as a mere Beast Warrior. Lu Ning couldn’t even retaliate, and fell with a single palm strike.

“Bind them all up and take them with us, and stick a Sleep Fu on them. Haha, this time we’ve struck gold! A Great Zhou Beast Master from the lower levels of the FuZhou Lands will be worth a lot of money back home!”

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12th’s company was already so far away that they weren’t able to see the battleground clearly anymore. Nor did they know that Lu Ning has already been captured alive. Luo Zhan took the other Fu Masters, and moved carefully—far, far away from the battle.

Only when they weren’t able to see any enemies did Luo Zhan stand up and say, “Should we carry on along the edge of the forest, or should we try to cross the open field from here?” He very naturally passed the

authority over, as if 12th wasn't a nine year old child, but was instead a legitimate Fu Zhou Warrior.

12th replied, "We ought to cross here, the sun will rise soon, and at that moment.... If we have to delay for an entire day, who knows what'll happen."

Luo Zhan quietly said, "Alright, everyone follow me. Don't wander off, and don't make any noise." He squinted his eyes, and looked ahead to see if there were any good places to head towards. Their walking speed wasn't fast as they slowly made their way across the open field.

Xiao Feng was second in line, carrying Chen Hong. Everyone was in a single file line, slowly making their way forward. They couldn't rush at this point, they could only walk slowly. As soon as they went any faster, the sound that their footsteps made would echo for a very long distance, especially on such an extremely quiet night like this.

Everyone had very nearly reached the foot of the mountain. Luo Zhan started to feel tired; if they could've crossed this distance unrestricted, it wouldn't have taken more than twenty minutes for them to reach the foot of the mountains, but now it'd taken them five whole hours. Forget running, even normal walking speed would've been faster.

"Uncle Luo, we ought to hurry to the mountain entrance, the sun's about to rise!"

The east was already starting to light up; the good thing was that there was a layer of thick mist forming, which was fortunately timed, thus they could temporarily neglect their tracks. Luo Zhan said, "Let's speed up a

bit!”

Huo Bao said quietly, “Look, isn’t that a cave?”

They all lifted their heads and looked. They could see a low hill behind a few large trees, with a small cliff face next to it. Along the cliff was indeed a small cave, which should be the pathway into the mountain.

12th rejoiced, “Excellent! Hurry!”

“Follow me!” Luo Zhan said as he carried 12th and sprinted forward. Now they didn’t care any more—even if they made some noise, they had to get to that cave. Had it not been for the layer of mist, they probably would’ve been discovered already.

Once a Fu Master exerts himself, their running speed is indeed very fast. They reached the cave within a minute. 12th said, “Don’t stop! Quick! Keep running! Hopefully we didn’t make enough noise for them to notice!”

The ground gradually rose, and after they’d climbed a few continuous hills, another larger hill appeared. 12th said, “Up the hill! Cross it!” without hesitation.

Luo Zhan said, “We’ll climb the hill!” At this point they lost all care, their voices even began to get louder. He rushed in front, and at the same time took out a Fu Knife to swipe away the obstructing branches. The five of them leapt forward and started up the hill.

Very quickly, they arrived at a mountain ridge. This was a steep peak. Once they reached the ridge they could see that, all the way to the horizon, mountains peaked one after another, with gullies dipping deep in between them. With a glance, the sky turned scarlet as the sun began to rise in the east and shone through the waves of clouds. It was a rare scene of beauty.

They could also see last night's battle ground clearly; there were even some chariots still hovering around the place. 12th wondered, "Do you think Master evaded capture?"

But Luo Zhan said, "12th, don't worry, your Master isn't a normal person. That guy can definitely avoid capture. With two Great Masters together, not mentioning that they're age old partners, with their combined effort, their strength far exceeds the norm. I believe that they can definitely lose those chariots."

12th nodded, saying, "Let's go that way..." As he pointed in the direction of a mountain peak he said, "Once we cross that peak, we'll be safe."

The five Fu Masters once again lifted the five children onto their backs, and quickly made their way down the steep mountain side. Arriving at a cliff face, they moved around the cliff, and climbed another mountain, gradually getting further and further away. After a journey of relentless sprinting, by noon, they'd arrived at a small stream. There was a waterfall nearby, which made a loud, continuous sound of water crashing.

12th said, "We can rest by the pool that's at the bottom of the waterfall."

Luo Zhan said, “I’ll go scout the area. 12th, take the other kids and boil some water. Haha, finally we can drink some hot soup!”

Chen Hong said, “Huo Bao, you guys gather some firewood...I need dry firewood as well, otherwise there’ll be too much smoke, and we’ll be discovered!” She’d become more lively now. This entire journey, with all its dangers, was very difficult for a small girl. To come without complaining must’ve been very hard.

12th smiled and said, “Don’t go too far, look nearby! If there’s danger, immediately give a signal.”

Huo Bao signalled to Hong Shi and Chen Bing, saying, “Let’s go find some firewood, god, I need a pee.”

12th propped up the large metal soup pan, saying, “This time, we’ll stew the Great Earth Dragon’s meat, that thing is both delicious and rejuvenating.”

Three giant soup pans were set up above the fire together. Placing the pre-cut, fist-sized pieces of meat into them, they stewed for over an hour. A delicious smell wafted through the air. For almost half a year they’d eaten dried meats and wheats; they’d almost forgotten what hot soup tasted like.

Huo Bao stared at the pans constantly saying, “I’ll eat that whole pan...I’m gonna eat that entire pan of soup...I’m so hungry!” 12th couldn’t help but laugh at that. Chen Hong said, “12th, don’t laugh, I want to have an entire pan of soup too...I feel so hungry...” At that point, everyone also

swallowed some spit.

Luo Zhan came back, and smelling the aroma, also said, “Oh, I’m so hungry!”

At that, everyone laughed, causing him to be dumbfounded and to ask, “What’s wrong? What did I say? Why are you all laughing?”

12th smiled, “Before you came back, a lot of us were all repeatedly saying: ‘Oh, I’m so hungry!’ Haha!” Luo Zhan didn’t find it funny at all. He wiped the sweat from his brow and said, “But really, I’m starving. Is it ready?”

Chen Hong sprinkled some salt in the soup and said, “It’ll be ready in a few minutes.” And with that, the whole group just sat there, staring at the pans. Huo Bao was so hungry that even his hands were shaking. 12th said, “Why don’t we drink some of the soup first!”

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Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan were being relentlessly chased by the chariots, there was nowhere for them to run, neither heaven nor hell was safe. And when the sun came up, it would become that much more difficult to escape. Right now, Qi Nan Shan was carrying Luo Jie on his back. Gradually everyone split away, until there was only one Fu Master left with them two, the rest having run in separate directions, but the pursuing chariots numbered over a hundred.

For the moment, Luo Jie hadn’t attacked. The people on the chariots

were truly evil, and had persistently harassed them with sniper rifles and Fu Arrows. By making their escape as difficult as possible, they'd prepared to attack when the escapees had tired and slowed.

The remaining Fu Master said, "Elder, you should find a place to hide. I'll draw their attention away!"

Luo Jie said, "It's useless, just follow us. If need be, we have a bit more power, but if we're separated...you'll be dead for sure."

That Fu Master grinned and said, "Haha, if it means that you'll be able to escape safely, then it's worth it..." He was very strong, almost at the level of a Great Fu Master—almost as strong as Qi Nan Shan. He was also very skilled at scouting and tracking, so he was also nearly as fast as Qi Nan Shan, which was the reason why he'd been able to keep up with the two Masters.

"Min Zai, be careful. If it becomes impossible to escape, then surrender! We'll come back for you!"

Min Zai smiled and said, "Don't worry, I've still got some tricks up my sleeve. For chasing us all this time, haha, I'll teach those bastards a lesson!" As soon as he'd finished speaking, he suddenly turned and sprinted to left, letting out a piercing battle cry at the same time.

Luo Jie said, "Let's go!"

The pursuing chariots were unable to speed up, demonstrating their weakness. The chariots were capable of super high-speed travel, but

when travelling slowly, they become very unstable, and as such, they needed to constantly fly in circles to alleviate the momentum they acquired from high-speed travel. This meant that while they were chasing their targets, they'd either fly too fast and overtake the chased targets, or they'd slow down by circling in the air, and would lose their targets that way. Especially since there was a dense forest below them, it would be very difficult to see, thus the only option was to constantly fire ammunition into the forest to clear the trees. This gave Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan some respite.

Upon hearing Min Zai's cry, countless chariots followed him away. They know that he was a decoy, but given their circumstances of not being able to find any of them, a decoy was still an enemy. Those randomly searching chariots, like houseflies smelling raw meat, all flew in Min Zai's direction. Only a tiny portion of the chariots continued chasing the two Great Masters.

In the forest, if there was just one person, the number of pursuers became redundant, especially if they were chasing a Fu Master, unless he was injured. As long as he focused entirely on evasion, the pursuers would be incredibly hard-pressed to find him.

Qi Nan Shan was exceptionally fast. Despite having to carry a person and traveling through a dense forest, he was still as fast as lightning, and as such, he moved deeper into the forest at a great speed. Those in the chariots couldn't see anything. Qi Nan Shan rested briefly, preparing to continue carrying Luo Jie in their escape.

Luo Jie said, "Nan Shan, let's head back and find the FuYe clansmen. It's best to find the isolated ones, hehe. They think that having large numbers is fun? Well let's have some fun picking them off slowly!" Without any need to worry about 12th and the other kids, the Elder could

unleash his full power.

Qi Nan Shan nodded, “Alright, I’ve also got some pent-up rage that I need to express. Fucking hell, ever since I became a Great Fu Master, I’ve never felt so humiliated, running for my life like a rabbit being hunted...”

The two of them turned around and headed back east.

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12th comfortably let out a burp, ran to the stream to wash his face, and as he plopped down onto a stone and sat comfortably, he said, “Man, that was great...” He sighed, and continued, “we rarely get to come to a Mysterious Land, and when we do, we get chased like there’s no tomorrow. Just wait until I become a Great FuZhou Master, I’ll come and pay them back, and then some!”

Luo Zhan smiled, “Become a Great FuZhou Master? Haha, good luck with that! 12th, The Northern Fu Sect has over a million people, and of those million, there are over a hundred thousand FuZhou practitioners, yet there are very few people who’re truly capable of getting to the Great Master level. If I remember correctly, there are less than a hundred....You’re only nine years old, but boy are your ambitions huge!”

12th replied, “What’s wrong with having big ambitions? Haha, without ambition...if we see the charitos, all we are able to do is flee, without even the slightest chance of retaliation. How can we live without ambitions?”

Huo Bao remarked, “The Elder is a Great FuZhou Master, but he likewise fled!”

12th kicked him hard and cursed, “Idiot, that was because we held Master back, otherwise he would’ve escaped this danger months ago!”

Luo Zhan smiled, “It’s true. With you five children around, everyone has to tread rather carefully, as they don’t want to start fights and put you in danger. So our best option was to flee...12th, the Elder cares about you a lot, haha, however, without you guys to worry about, I think that the Elder will start his vengeance. I don’t think that he’s ever suffered like this”

Chen Hong asked, “Where are we going?”

12th smiled, “We’ll find a safe area and wait there the entire time, until we get thrown out of the Mysterious Land.” To be honest though, he himself didn’t understand how they were going to be thrown out.

Luo Zhan nodded, “If we make it out of this Mysterious Land, it’ll be the greatest victory. This place is terribly dangerous.”

Everyone tidied up the pans, collected their belongings, and changed into new clothes. It was a shame that they didn’t have time to wash the dirty ones. Luo Zhan and the others carried the five children, and continued to head deeper into the mountain.

This particular range was vastly different than the previous ones—mountains everywhere, peaks after peaks after peaks... It was a serene

and beautiful view, one unlike anything 12th had ever seen before. This entire journey he'd been speechless, but since he'd been carried up the mountain by Luo Zhan, he could relax and bathe in the scenery; it made him feel very relaxed.

Throughout the journey, he'd occasionally asked Luo Zhan to stop as he collected materials and ingredients for creating Fu. On the way, he'd encountered many rare and highly sought-after materials—they'd been too good to pass up.

About a week went by peacefully as the five Fu Masters, carrying five children, climbed mountains and trekked along the mountain range. They arrived at a forest on the side of a mountain with a large pond. 12th said, "We don't need to keep rushing anymore, look, that cliff face has a cave at the bottom, we can rest there for a few days."

Luo Zhan said, "Xiao Feng, keep watch, I'll go hunt food!"

Huo Bao said, "Uncle Luo, can I go with you?"

Luo Zhan nodded, "Alright, bring a Fu Bow, there're quite a few wild birds, therefore we can shoot some down to roast!"

12th didn't help with the cooking this time, instead, he took a slow amble around the pond, feeling very worried for his Master. A stream flowed over a pile of rocks and into the pond below it—it was like a mini waterfall. He found a large rock nearby, and sat down, hugging and burying his head in his knees, as he contemplated life.

When he'd come to this world, his initial goal had been to live his entire life stably; as long as no unforeseen circumstances had occurred, there might've been a chance for him to return back to his initial world. The more he understood this world however, the more he realised that safely living his entire life in stability was not a practical goal—without power, it's impossible to achieve anything, because this world is simply far too dangerous.

The good thing was that he had exceptional potential, which was very important. If he wanted to rely on his own abilities to learn, forget about potential, he wouldn't even have the most basic resources to learn about FuZhou, and not all of these could be bought with money.

Relying on the Northern Fu Sect, as well as a good Master, he was able to get by in this world. However, simply getting by is by far insufficient. Unless he could advance soon, the benefits he'd gained for being part of the Northern Fu Sect would become redundant. However to advance, he needed to train, and right now fighting was unavoidable, so to protect himself, he needed to improve his own abilities and power.

Their first time in the Mysterious Lands, they'd also been chased all over the place—like a rabid dog. It was exceedingly embarrassing and frustrating. Even though in the end they got a lot out of it, this type of encounter indicated that he still wasn't powerful enough.

12th was somewhat sorrowful, "I'm only nine, fucking hell...I'm too young. Being young does have its advantages, but also has its disadvantages. I guess I'll just get by until I surpass everybody, then I'll be safe...argh, but that's too difficult too!"

"12th! 12th! Food's ready!"

12th slowly lifted his head, thinking, “Well shit. Never thought I’d hear such an iconic sentence from my past life again...” He stood up and said, “Coming!”

It was evident that Huo Bao was a born hunter, as that guy had shot over a dozen meaty pheasants. It was enough for three more giant pans of soup. 12th smiled, “Chicken soup! Good stuff!” Chen Hong poured him a bowl, and fished out a pheasant wing for him, saying, “Here 12th, eat up.”

12th silently ate the pheasant, still in deep thought. He thought about that mysterious man, Li Ran, and the mark that’d been left on his Fu Door’s Spirit Fu. He hadn’t dared to mess with it, because what if he went there, but couldn’t return? That’d be a big problem,

There was also the Fu that was engraved with birds. 12th still didn’t know what type of Fu it was, as ever since he’d absorbed it into his Innate Fu Orb, even after all this time, he’d almost completely recovered. 12th estimated that it could be used up to four times at least. Of course, it was untested, and its power was still unknown.

He finished his pheasant and said, “I’m going to rest,” as he continued to think about anything and everything.

Luo Zhan took another Fu Master to scout the area. The entire time, there hadn’t been a single powerful Fu Beast, but it was still a good idea to be alert. 12th was Luo Jie’s most prized disciple, he didn’t want anything to happen to 12th under his watch.

Chen Hong came to 12th's side and quietly asked, "12th, is something the matter?"

12th shook his head and replied, "Nothing, I'm just thinking over some questions."

Chen Hong had a sort of blind trust towards 12th. If he said that there was nothing wrong, then there wasn't anything wrong. As she turned to put away all of the cooking equipment, a Fu Master hurried back with Luo Zhan behind him, quietly saying, "Xiao Feng, take them and hide! We discovered a hunting chariot, and it's already at the cave entrance!"

Chapter 7: Ambush

Luo Zhan said, “Everyone collect your things and prepare to move; it’s not safe here anymore!”

12th was broken out of his deep thought, he stood, and he asked, “Uncle Luo, what do you mean it’s not safe here anymore?”

Because he was so deeply in thought, he missed what the Fu Master said.

That same Fu master repeated, “We discovered a hunting chariots at the canyon ahead!”

12th asked, “Wait..... Is it just one hunting chariot?”

Luo Zhan said, “Yes! There’s only one!” He wasn’t dumb. As soon as he finished, he realised what 12th was thinking; however, he then hurriedly added, “No. No. I need to keep you guys safe!”

12th said, “Uncle Luo, don’t reject it so quickly; let me investigate it a little, haha. Maybe we can find something good.”

Luo Zhan contemplated for a moment, not knowing what best to do. Because, for the entire journey, it was 12th who came up with the plans of action; thus, now, as soon as he gives his idea, everyone was used to just following along with it. He waited a moment, and then he said, “Alright, I’ll take you. Although, be careful, and make sure you don’t

reveal us to them.”

12th followed Luo Zhan quietly, eventually arriving at the canyon. It wasn't a deep canyon, and it had sloping flat ground on either side. Additionally, the chariot was at the bottom of the canyon, it was easy to see from above.

Luo Zhan quietly spoke, saying, “We don't know how many people are in there...”

12th whispered back, “I think they're gathering materials... Look, there... it's a person. Yeah, it looks like he's digging something up.”

Luo Zhan said, “12th, I still think we should leave; you guys are still very young. If you get wounded, I won't be able to look your Master in the eyes ever again.”

12th smiled before responding, “This is a trap; look over there...”

Luo Zhan squinted, and he looked carefully. A second later, he cursed quietly, “The bastards! This is a trap!” He continued to watch the shadows from afar, and he said, “There's at least five more chariots!”

12th nodded, “That's only the ones that we can see; there might be even more hidden nearby, let's go!” He initially wanted to pillage the chariot. Had there been only one, he definitely would have told Luo Zhan to attack them; however, given the circumstance, he wouldn't be fooled. Thus, the two of them slowly made their way back.

Back to the resting area, Luo Zhan said, "Let's hurry and leave this place!"

12th furrowed his brows, and he wondered, "Something's not right; why would they lay a trap?"

Luo Zhan thought and asked, "Why?"

12th laughed bitterly, "Leaving's not an option anymore... Let's get inside the cave! Quickly! Otherwise it'll be too late!"

He said that last sentence with a sense of urgency.

Luo Zhan trusts in 12th very much, and, without another word, he swung him up onto his back, saying, "Everyone take a child... Follow me!" As he sprinted away quickly. The mountain cave was at the base of a cliff, and it wasn't far; it was about a few hundred meters from where they were. With Luo Zhan's speed, that distance could be covered in less than a minute.

The five Fu masters carried the five children, and, moments after they entered the cave, a few chariots revealed themselves without notice. Unfortunately, they were spotted before they completely entered the cave.

The cave wasn't deep as there were only three sections; the opening was huge, the second section was incredibly narrow, at most they could go in rows of two, and the third was even smaller. The adults could barely cross. After each section, there's about a hundred square meters of space, with a rather high ceiling.

The cave was in fact a dead end, and there was no way out. 12th didn't have any other options; Luo Zhan and the others, taking five children, wouldn't stand a chance against the chariots' attacks. At least here, they have advantageous ground that offered some temporary protection.

After they entered, 12th said, "Put me down!"

Luo Zhan put 12th down, and he said, "I think they spotted us!"

12th said, "Yes, we've been discovered. Huo Bao, you guys go in first. Uncle Luo and Uncle Xiao Feng, help me out!" He thought it best to first lay the traps and then talk. The entrance to the cave was very wide, but it's not the ideal place to stand their ground; thus, they can't guard the first section of the cave, but they can make it as hard to capture as possible.

After repeatedly analysing the geography of the cave, 12th said, "Uncle Luo, go scout the entrance. If they come, come back immediately! Uncle Xiao Feng, help me dig a hole beneath this giant rock!"

Luo Zhan took another Fu Master, and he watched the entrance; they could see seven or eight charitos circling the air above, watching the area. He said, "Perhaps, they didn't notice us? No, it's almost like they're waiting for us..."

One of the chariots flew low to the ground, and five people jumped off; it was followed by another chariot, and, likewise, five more people jumped off. Not long after, there were twenty five people on the ground, and all of them were watching the cave.

Luo Zhan felt hopeless; he knew that they were discovered, and this time, there isn't any way out.

After burying a few Explosion Fu, 12th said, "Uncle Xiao Feng, go get Uncle Luo to come back, and go deeper inside the cave, we need to prepare."

Xiao Feng went to get them. 12th went to the second section of the cave, and he started looking at the geography. This section was just over two meters high, ten meters long, and it was about one meter wide; the narrower parts weren't even one meter wide. This tunnel winds around, so it was impossible for the hunters to attack them from outside, the snaking tunnel walls would block the projectiles.

12th had one Fu Master next to him, and he said, "Uncle Yan, lift me up a bit."

Uncle Yan's name was 'Yan Ge'; he was a quiet person in his mid thirties. He silently nodded, and, grabbing 12th under the armpits, he hoisted him up.

12th placed a Flame Fu in a small crevice in the stone, and then he placed an Explosion Fu in another crevice. On either side of the cavern, there are countless little crevices in the stone; he planted these Single-Use Fu one after the other. He could see that Yan Ge was shivering. In such an enclosed space, the effect of one explosion will be many times more powerful than it was in an open field.

The entrance to the last section of the cavern was also very narrow, and

there's a large rock sticking out of the wall inside that's right next to the entrance. 12th said, "I'll go ontop of that rock; I can attack the people coming through."

Uncle Luo, you take someone and hide on the other side of the cave. Uncle Xiao Feng, you go in front to bait the enemy. Uncle Yan, you take someone and assist him. Huo Bao, take the other three kids and hide inside."

Huo Bao didn't want to this time, so he said, "12th, that rock you're standing on is very big; we can go up there too! We can help with Fu Bows! We can't not do anything!"

Hong Shi said, "Yeah! 12th, there's no reason letting you put yourself in danger while we go and hide!"

Chen Bing said, "We have four Fu Bows, and the distance is so close; it's enough to deal with at least one person!"

12th couldn't help but smile, "Alright, let's attack together!"

He knows that he's influenced by his previous life since he wants to protect the children from battle; however, this world was different. The children here... Ever since the day that they learnt to lift a weapon, they must join in fights.

The rock that they stood on is very big, big enough for six or seven adults to stand on. The five children, therefore, didn't find it uncomfortably cramped. The positioning was very good, and it allowed

them to attack the people coming through, directly. With Xiao Feng's group baiting the enemy inside, 12th and the kids' attacks will be very effective as the enemies' attention will be on the adults.

The five children stood atop the rock, each holding a Fu Bow, all decent Fu Weapons, with Fu Arrows notched, and they prepared to fight.

12th said, "Huo Bao, be careful when you guys attack, don't attack like a swarm of bees and shoot randomly; you should take turns, and, after you shoot an arrow, stop and notch another arrow, haha. It's basically like taking turns to shoot; this way, there won't be gaps in between attacks. Oh yeah, that reminds me; if I remember correctly, you brought a fish net, didn't you Chen Hong?"

Chen Hong was very excited; the usually shy and rosy-cheeked little girl was not scared in the least. She held her Fu Bow with an expression that said she couldn't wait to start as she said, "Yes I have a fish net. I never got to use it though. 12th, why? Do you want it?"

12th was very happy; they initially packed a fishing net just in case they wanted to have fish soup. He asked, "Who knows how to use this net?"

Hong Shi raised his hand, saying, "I do! I've caught fish before!"

12th said, "Chen Hong give him the net; wait until I give the order for you to throw it! Haha, now it's getting interesting. Hong Shi, don't miss! Aim at the entrance!"

Hong Shi laid out the fish net, and he placed it at his feet, wrapping

the tightening rope around his wrists. He took his Fu Bow, and he said, “No problem! 12th! I will make sure to aim it right!”

“Here they come! Everyone hide!”

Luo Zhan held a Fu Knife, and he hid beside the entrance with another Fu Master. Xiao Feng, Yan Ge, and the remaining Fu Master hid underneath the rock, and the children are above them.

12th had a stack of those Single-Use Attack Fu ready to attack.

They heard footsteps, and, with those, they could feel the diligence taken by the enemy. One head popped through the entrance, and, as it turned to the side, it was met with shock.

Luo Zhan raised his knife as that guy turned his head. Once that guy noticed him, Luo Zhan let out a smile of ridicule as he tried to slash him. That guy was so frightened that he immediately withdrew his head, and, although he had fast reactions, the knife still made contact, slicing a large piece off of the top of his head. That guy made pitiful cries as he retreated.

When 12th saw that guy sticking his head through, he could see half of his body; immediately fired a Fire Ball Fu without hesitation. It hit squarely at his chest; however, he soon found out why people say that the Fire Ball Fu was really the worst Fu; it was so weak that it couldn't hurt anybody.

He was so angry that he almost cursed out loud.

Two silhouettes quickly shot through the entrance, they were very fast. Luo Zhan yelled, and he started trying to cut them. Xiao Feng silently made his move too, with a Fu Cudgel in hand, quickly attacking.

12th lightly waved his hand, and Huo Bao fired his Fu Arrow. Next came Hong Shi, then Chen Bing, and, once it was Chen Hong's turn, Huo Bao had already readied his next arrow, preparing for the next round.

Five Fu Arrows continuously shot, making the remaining attackers hesitate. In that brief moment, the two people who charged in had been killed, and the smell of blood started wafting through the area.

The following people were frightened, and they hurriedly retreated.

12th said, "Guys get some rest. Uncle Xiao Feng, can you go search the bodies and see if there's anything valuable?" It seems that he's become this little group's leader, continuously giving orders, with everyone present respecting his commands. This entire journey, he's ordered people to escape, and, because of his resourcefulness and decisiveness, he has gained everyone's respect.

Xiao Feng went to search the corpses, and he said, "12th, I might as well just use a Fu and burn the corpse!"

12th said, "Best not... Right now, Fu are very valuable to us, and there are still enemies that we need to kill; we can't waste it on something petty like this!"

Xiao Feng laughed, “Right!”

Those Fu Masters listening to 12th’s orders didn’t have any qualms about it at all; instead, there’s a relaxing feel to it. It was as if they weren’t actually cornered, and they could escape whenever they wanted.

12th took out a pouch of ball bearings, about the size of a thumb, and they had a rough surface. They were made as tools for grinding materials. He threw the pouch to Luo Zhan, and he said, “Uncle Luo, pour these into that tunnel.”

Luo Zhan asked, “What are these?”

12th replied, “Those are grinding beads. Be careful where you pour them, and make sure it’s more concentrated at the entrance of the tunnel!”

Luo Zhan wondered for a second, and then he understood, with the ground full of metal beads, the people entering will fall for sure. He immediately did as 12th asked.

After about ten minutes, the sound of footsteps was heard again. 12th said, “Be careful! They might be using rifles!”

As soon as he finished speaking, seven or eight gun nozzles poked through. 12th called, “Get down!”

Everyone immediately hit the ground. Bang! Bang! Bang! A continuous explosion sounded. It’s a shame that the bullets only exploded when they

contacted the far wall; the people hiding at the entrance weren't affected by the explosions.

Before everyone even stood up, five black silhouettes used the distractions of the explosions, rushing inside. All that could be heard were cries of surprise as they all fell. None of the five could find any footing, and they proceeded to slip on the ball bearings.

12th called, "Attack!"

The ones who came in were doomed since they couldn't even get up onto their knees, let alone fight. They were all cut down like vegetables by Luo Zhan and the others. Those guys were skilled, but they were just too unlucky that they were fighting someone like 12th; Someone who thinks outside of the box and doesn't use common tactics, it was incredibly vexing.

Twice they fought; their enemy has lost seven people whilst 12th's group didn't even have any injuries. Luo Zhan knew that had it not been for the ball bearings that 12th asked him to scatter, they would've focused entirely on the five that entered, and, if that had happened, then the people following those five would've posed a greater danger.

Outside the hole, over a hundred people were gathered, a bit confused. The seven people who entered weren't weak, but there weren't any signs of them coming out; it's as though they vanished. An elderly man said, heavily, "Ten people go in at once!"

The middle-aged man laughed bitterly, saying, "The tunnel is too narrow; at most we can send six people in at the same time. If more

people go in, and was blasted with a powerful Fu, the aftermath will be terrible.”

The elderly man said, “In that case... Send in two of our more powerful people!”

Moments later someone reported that there weren't any signs of those two either. The cave was like a bottomless trap hole; no matter who goes in, they'll be swallowed. The elderly man's face darkened as he asked, “Full report! How many people are in there?”

Nobody could answer, and, after a moment, the man was infuriated. He asked, “You don't even know?! Are you even sure it's them?”

A young man said, “We can confirm that, especially that child. He seems to be the one that they're focusing on protecting, and his bodyguards are very strong; however, as for how many there are, we aren't too sure of that. There shouldn't be more than four people though.”

“Four people? Including the kid... That's five people. You can't even capture five people? Do I really need to do everything myself? Are you all just that useless?”

A middle-aged man said, “We could try to smoke them out!”

The old man said, “I don't care what you do, just do it! Capture them alive... I want to see the captives this time, tomorrow! I didn't think that the new generation of the FuYe Clan were all so pathetic!” He turned, and he climbed onto a hunting chariot.

The middle-aged man said, “Call two more groups over! Everyone else, go find firewood!”

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12th said, “Those two people were quite powerful, haha! Too bad they couldn’t stand up straight, especially, with a fish net; they couldn’t live even if they wanted to. They’re overestimating us, and that is why they’re being too cautious. They’re using Round Tactics, no wonder they’re losing!”

Huo Bao asked, “What are Round Tactics?”

12th smiled and answered, “Adding more and more each time. That’s Round Tactics. If they had used all of their forces and rushed us at once, although, there would be more injuries and fatalities sustained, things wouldn’t be nearly as passive as it is now.”

T/N: The actual literal translation for the tactics is ‘Adding Oil Tactics’, it’s analogous of adding oil to an oil lamp, adding a little bit to start and seeing that it’s not enough keep adding more and more. Since I couldn’t find any translation that equates to that tactic and ‘Adding Oil Tactics’ sounds terrible, I’ve used ‘Round Tactics’ as a substitute. A ‘Round’ in music terms is a type of canon music where after a melody is finished by one voice, it repeats and another voice starts as well, so gradually more and more voices will join the initial one. However if anybody knows of war tactics, and knows what this is in english, feel free to comment and I’ll change it.

“Uncle Luo, if that does happen, we should just retreat to the back of the cavern.”

Luo Zhan smiled, “No problem!”

Heavy smoke started to waft into the cavern with the wind, and 12th couldn't resist laughing; he said, “They've resorted to try to smoke us out? Haha, watch this!” He lifted his hand and fired an Auxiliary-type Whirlwind Fu. A powerful wind blew in the cavern and forcefully blasted out of the cave.

In his past life, 12th probably wouldn't have had any way to deal with being smoked out, but in this magical FuZhou World, he has many options of Auxiliary-type Fu that he could use. He could even deal with a giant wildfire, let alone some smoke.

Moments later, there were cries and screams coming from outside, followed by angry curses. They weren't cursing 12th, or any of the others, but they were actually cursing at their own people.

12th said quietly, “Be careful they might all-in us. This time, I'm afraid it won't be just a few people. Okay, I'll go down!”

Luo Zhan said, “Don't come down, it's dangerous down here, stay up there!”

12th followed the rock, and he climbed down, laughing, “I've got a super powerful Treasure Fu, hehe, gonna give 'em a big surprise; it's hard to use up there!”

Luo Zhan couldn't help but smile meekly, he couldn't control the little guy at all, the kid's too assertive. He said, "Alright then, you stay behind me, I'll cover you and don't run off!"

12th smiled, "Don't worry, I won't risk my life or anything, heh." He has two Treasure Fu that he can use. As for those Single-Use-type Fu, none of them are very powerful. However he's not trying to kill the enemy, only disrupting them. If he can obscure their vision and obstruct their movements, then he'll have achieved his goal.

12th's main firepower, are those two Treasure Fu, one Frost Bolt Treasure Fu, which can be used up to nine times, and one Chaos Fire Ball Fu, which can be used up to three times. As for that Bird Fu that he found in the ruins, he hasn't used it nor has he experimented with it, but through his Innate Fu Orb, he understands that it's ready to use, at most it can be used up to four time, if it had more time to recharge, maybe it will recover enough to be used more times.

The tunnel was very quiet, and not a single sound could be heard. The enemy uproariously charged into the cave, throwing more lit firewood and attempting to fill it with smoke. Had they snuck in more quietly, 12th wouldn't have found it strange at all. He calculated a bit, and he began preparing his Chaos Fire Ball Fu.

This was an Area of Effect Offensive Fu, 12th has only ever experimented with it once in back in the Northern Fu Sect.

This time 12th plans to unleash the Chaos Fire Ball Fu, and he plans to use it to trigger all of the other Fu planted inside the winding tunnels;

therefore, attacking the oncoming enemies.

Luo Zhan and the others stared at the tunnel entrance. 12th was mumbling something under his breath when suddenly he ran out, standing in the middle of the tunnel entrance, less than five meters away from it. He held out his hand, and a streak of red fire forwards through the tunnel entrance. He ran back immediately, without waiting for it to explode.

In an open area, the power of the Chaos Fire Ball has its limits because it can be avoided; however, in an enclosed space or a narrow area, its power was multiplied.

Indeed, the tunnel was filled with people, all preparing to charge straight in. Nobody could have anticipated that 12th calculated everything, one strike with a Chaos Fire Ball Fu resulted in the best outcome possible. Additionally, on top of that, it triggered all of the planted Single-Use Offense type Fu. All of the twenty-odd people who went into the tunnel has been blown to oblivion, and now, even retreating was difficult, let alone attacking.

The most important part of the Chaos Fire Ball was the 'Chaos'; the Fire Ball shoots forward and splits into countless smaller Fire Balls, shooting in all directions. This type of Fire Ball was different compared to the Single-Use type Fire Balls, this was the famous Shadow Fire Ball; it's made from Spirit Fire that Luo Jie collected in a shadowy land. The pristine, synthesised Frost Jade, was special because it can always burn open a pathway. It doesn't matter whether it's man or beast; if the enemy doesn't have powerful defenses then the Shadow Fire will continue to burn everything it touches until there's nothing left.

Over twenty people entered, only seven escaped, three of them suffered grave injuries. In the end, only four of them escaped unscathed, and they should count themselves as lucky that they managed to evade certain death.

The FuYe clansmen couldn't understand; how could the enemy predict everything to such precision? The most infuriating part was that they still haven't managed to figure out exactly how many people are inside, nor do they know how strong they are. That middle-aged man's face already grew pale, reluctantly walking over to the hunting chariot and said, "Sir... We... We..."

From the chariot, the old man's fury could be heard, "Useless, stupid, FuYe Ah Da! Who the fuck nominated you to be group leader? Fuck! Not only are you stupid, but you're also so fucking pathetic! Get the fuck out!"

FuYe Ah Da looked like he was about to cry, but he stopped himself by clenching his teeth; he doesn't hate 12th and the other enemies, but instead, he hates the old man in front of him. He just retreated to one side, not daring to say another word, nor did he dare to continue giving orders to attack, for a moment, all was silent.

One of the men stood next to the cave entrance, bored; the cave entrance was huge, and there were quite a few of the clansmen standing there. That one bored man reached into a crevice in the wall. He was confused at the small click he heard, but that confusion was short-lived, as immediately afterwards, there was an explosion. A giant ball of fire spilled out. That man didn't have his armour activated, nor was he prepared for this at all; thus, he was entirely engulfed in flames, and they made a pitiful cry as he died.

That small little movement resulted in a chain reaction. It triggered 12th's trap, and that triggered a continuous chain explosion. The Explosion Fu on the stone walls, completely destroyed the wall, multiple large rocks cracked and followed the stone up the cliff, and rocks began to fall from the cliff. Everyone was so frightened that they all screamed and ran for their lives, and, even though some of them were quick, some of them weren't quick enough, getting their heads crushed by the falling rocks.

FuYe Ah Da stunned, stared at it all; he was so angry that his hands were shaking.

The old man in the chariot leapt out, with a dark expression on his face, he said, "You're a bunch of shit! Fucking pathetic and stupid! You're all fucking piles of shit! How is it possible that the FuYe Clan has the likes of you group of utter shit! Fuck..... it seems if you want something doing, best do it yourself!"

He strode with purpose towards the cave.

This guy was the clan's most powerful Great Fu Master, only responsible for protecting the trainees; he usually doesn't need to personally engage in the fight. However, time after time, 12th's underhand tactics have angered him, and now he no longer has the patience to deal with it anymore; thus, now it's his turn.

Chapter 8: True Ancient Fu

After 12th fired the Chaos Fire Ball, he hid behind Luo Zhan. They could immediately hear the dissonant cries and screams of the victims, and through the brightness of the flames, they could see the silhouettes and shadows of the chaos that ensued.

Everything calmed down after about five minutes. The five Fu Masters and the four other children all looked at each other. 12th watched the entrance diligently, saying, “Uncle Luo, let’s retreat to the last section of the cavern as we can’t hold them here anymore. Use a broom to collect all the ball bearings so we can gather them. Be careful though..... even if you can’t collect them all, make sure that they are not visible at the tunnel entrance.”

Everyone busied themselves. Fortunately they had plenty of people, so collecting the balls didn’t take too long, even the ones that they didn’t gather were swept to the side out of sight.

Luo Zhan asked, “We did pretty well holding them back, why are we retreating?”

12th countered with a question of his own, “If you had lost the number advantage, what would you do?”

Luo Zhan carefully thought it over and answered, “I’d order more powerful people to come..... Oh, you mean to say that the next group to enter will be very powerful?”

12th sighed and said, “Exactly, that’s why we need to focus solely on dealing with them, even though the probability of us getting out of here is quite slim, we still need to create the most advantageous area as possible.” He walked back towards the last tunnel after he finished speaking.

Everyone hurried to follow him in. This tunnel was incredibly narrow, so much that anyone who was somewhat muscular would need to walk sideways to fit. At the end of the narrow, winding tunnel was a small space.

After 12th entered, he noticed that it wasn’t dark inside, and there were beams of light shining through the ceiling. The light slipped through the countless cracks and crevices in the stone by reflecting through the cracks. The ground was quite flat, and there wasn’t really anything useful to take advantage of. 12th signalled to everyone to scatter the ball bearings, and then fix the fish net to the ceiling connected by a rope which controls the net. The fishing net had only been through one battle and was already ripped and tattered in places, however, if it was still useable then they definitely would not throw it away.

12th touched the ground with his hand, feeling frustrated. They could have dug traps had the ground been soil or mud, however it was stone through and through. They had neither the time nor manpower to plow through stone.

“Huo Bao, the oncoming battle..... We won’t be able to help so we should hide in that corner first.”

12th was the first to move, he continued, “Right now we can only have faith in Uncle Luo and the other Fu Masters, if they send in a Great

Master level person, then we won't stand a chance. Fuck this Mysterious Land for not closing yet. In any case it's best not to distract Uncle Luo or the others."

The five children huddled together closely, squatting in the corner of the cavern. 12th squatted at the very outskirts of the group. According to him, he could perhaps find an opportunity to use a Fu of some kind, or at the very least harass the enemy a little. 12th's level-headedness inspired calm in the other children. Hong Shi took out a Fu Shield and placed it near 12th to protect him.

Huo Bao said quietly, "12th, where did you learn all of this? The traps, the ball bearings..... How come I don't know any of these weird and wacky ideas?"

12th thought for a moment and said, "Huo Bao, these are just common sense, it's nothing spectacular..... The really impressive part is the power; in a moment you'll see what power is and how to use it to solve every single random problem you can possibly have."

Chen Bing asked, "We can use Fu Bows to help, why can't we attack?"

12th sighed, "Using Fu Bows against someone as strong as Grandpa Nan Shan..... do you think it'd do anything?"

Chen Bing swallowed his surprise, asking, "Will it be a Great Master coming this time?"

Sighing, 12th said, "Hopefully not, for if it isn't then Uncle Luo and the

others can deal with them easily, however if it is then even if we joined in, do you think it would make a difference?

Chen Bing understood, and replied, “Indeed, having five more children will make no difference whatsoever.”

People at the Great Master level were basically unbeatable. A Great Fu Master could block many Fu Masters’ attacks. If they fought head on, Fu Masters and Great Fu Masters wouldn’t be on nearly the same level. Because of this Luo Zhan and the others awaited the enemy’s arrival with heavy hearts, not knowing what type of person they’d have to face.

According to 12th’s idea, three people would lure the enemy’s attention while the remaining two, one right one left, lay hidden in ambush, and one of them was also in charge of the fish net. Despite the little bit of light coming in, it was still quite dark inside the cavern, so they needed to adjust to the darkness in order to see the surrounding area properly. Due to this, they had a slight advantage over the enemy in that regard.

12th held a Single-use type Fu in his hand as he waited patiently.

Soon they could hear footsteps, it was very rhythmic, not hurried nor too cautious. 12th became slightly afraid because only people who were completely confident in their abilities could walk into the unknown with such stability; the footsteps conveyed a sense of straightforwardness and fearlessness, as if it were a message for the people inside saying ‘I’m extremely powerful. Prepare yourselves.’

An old man appeared at the entrance, both his hands were empty, and as he stood at the winding tunnels, he said, “Surrender or die! Make your

choice!”

Luo Zhan calmly watched him without saying a word.

The old man took a step forward, and in that moment, 12th let out a shout and crushed the Fu that he was holding, causing a beam of blinding light to flash. Luo Zhan and the others all closed their eyes the moment that 12th shouted. However, the old man didn't know, so the beam of brilliant light blinded him in that moment.

At the same time his front foot landed from that step that he took. Because the flash of blinding light disrupted his mind-set, that foot landed on the ball bearings. Even if he was Great Master level powerful, he couldn't stop his foot from slipping, so his foot slipped as one foot slipped forward uncontrollably whilst the other was planted firmly into the ground. *Crash!* The old man performed the splits; his legs were perfectly horizontal. With a woosh, the net from above fell ontop of him.

He fell into the trap the moment he took that step, just as 12th calculated. He was gleefully happy as he yelled, “Attack!”

The old man, in that moment, was stunned. He had lived so long, experienced countless battles, and yet he had never encountered such a random occurrence, being forced to do the splits before the fight had even started. He was getting old and now his bones would hurt like no tomorrow, and as for what fell on his head, he had even less time to consider.

Not even Luo Zhan thought that things would go so smoothly as he lifted his Fu Knife and forcefully thrust it downwards. At this point

they were just hoping that it would be able to hurt him, since killing him was highly unlikely. Unfortunately, with one strike of the knife, countless Fu Patterns appeared on his skin, blocking the attack. The old man thrust his palm towards the net, which in turn pushed the knife away. With that Luo Zhan's body started to shake from the impact as his Fu Knife almost got blasted away from him—he couldn't withstand such force so he reluctantly retreated.

The old man roared with anger as his legs began to lift off the ground near the net. Yan Ge gave a battle cry, and with a Fu Cudgel he forcefully brought it down on him. Xiao Feng held a Fu Gun, it was very sporadic, sometimes working sometimes not, but it did its job this time. The other two Fu Masters used weapons that were rarely seen. They brought their metal warhammers down onto the man. The old man's entire face was filled with rage as he turned his body slightly, evading the gunshot, and with two hands he thrust them up into the air.

Crack.....crack..... Two sounds could be heard. Yan Ge yelled out for them to retreat, but the other Fu Master couldn't hold the warhammer stably as he dropped it and left it behind. Although all of that strength was compacted into an old man's body, and he wasn't even able to stand firmly, as soon as he put a foot down, it was all ball bearings. One foot slipped and the splits happened again. It hurt so much that he was screaming and crying.

Luo Zhan turned his blade horizontally and attempted to strike the old man's neck.

12th took this opportunity to fire a Frost Bolt. The timing was perfect as it hit squarely in the old man's chest. The Fu Patterns flashed for a moment and the Frost Bolt turned to dust. 12th fired three more in quick succession, but the old man didn't even care, he stretched his arm out

and threw the closest thing he could find, and in the blink of an eye, he ruined 12th's attack.

Everyone understood that if they didn't wound the man now, they'd be done for sure.

The aura surrounding the old man, even though he was lying on his side, hadn't changed at all, and so he raised his arms and began to box. He threw some punches and arm thrusts and the five Fu Masters were left helpless.

12th fired nine more Frost Bolts, but they had next to no effect as he helplessly watched the old man stand up and attack Yan Ge. There was nothing he could do. Against absolute power, any and all tactics, honourable or otherwise, had no effect.

Yan Ge was sent flying across the ground, spitting mouthfuls of blood. He was struck in the chest by a palm as he lost the strength to fight.

Luo Zhan hopelessly tried to attack with his knife, only for the old man to snap the knife in two with a punch, and with a kick to the left hip, Luo Zhan fell to the ground with a cry of pain.

The old man laughed and said, "Little insignificant peasants like you dare to raise your weapons against me?"

In less than a minute, the five Fu Masters were all spitting blood as they retreated. Thankfully the old man didn't plan on killing anyone, he wanted to capture and then slowly torture them, to let out some steam.

Luo Zhan staggered next to 12th, still holding the broken Fu Knife, he asked, “12th, what do we do now?”

12th answered, “He’s too strong!”

The old man stood on the ground, he lowered his head and gave a kick, laughing coldly he said, “What a treacherous tactic, laying the ground full of ball bearings. Alright then, why don’t you surrender!”

12th asked, “Who are you?” as he stood up.

The old man surprised, asked, “Was it you who shot the Fu?”

12th nodded, “I’m the only FuZhou user here!”

The old man was even more shocked, “You? FuZhou user? How old even are you?”

12th said, “Nine!”

The old man was so shocked that he couldn’t find the words, because continually firing multiple Fu attacks, in his eyes, no matter if it was laying traps at the cave entrance or annihilating a dozen people with a single Chaos Fire Ball, if it all came from the hands of this child, it’s far too unbelievable.

He said, “I’m the Elder of the FuYe clan – FuYe Chen, what’s your

name?”

“Guo 12th!”

FuYe Chen said, “Surrender, if you do, I won’t kill them!” A nine year old child who was already this powerful, he really wanted him as a slave.

12th calmly said, “If you want me to surrender..... that’s not too much of an issue, however.....”

FuYe Chen was very gleeful as he asked, “However what?” It was well within his ability to capture these people, but his curiosity had been piqued by 12th, he wanted to know so he wasn’t hurrying, it was not like they could escape anyway.

12th said, “If you can take my next attack, then I’ll surrender!”

FuYe Chen laughed heartily. He nodded and said, “Alright! I’m not afraid of you even if you use FuZhou, after all, you are only one person, haha, come at me!”

12th asked, “If..... I were to beat you, would you let us all go?”

FuYe Chen looked like he just heard something funny, so he grinned and answered, “Of course!”

12th moved back a few steps. Now his only option was to use that Bird Fu, the one that was engraved with a Fire Bird, but since he had never

used it before, he didn't know what would happen, nor did he know how to control it, so in the earlier fights, he didn't dare release it. After talking with FuYe Chen he finally got his chance, so no matter what effect this Fu has, he already has guaranteed safety.

If he wins, they go free, but losing isn't that scary either, they'll just surrender. 12th didn't mind surrendering all that much, in this bizarre world the most important thing was to stay alive, as long as you live opportunities would arise.

Luo Zhan and the other Fu Masters grew pale, as they believed that 12th had no chance because the old man had the power of a Great Master, so he could withstand any of 12th's Fu attacks.

12th said, "Get ready!" He seemed very calm.

FuYe Chen mumbled to himself, for he couldn't believe that a nine year old child could be this collected. He nodded, "Alright! Take your best shot! I won't play foul and attack first, nor will I let you hit me. If I retreat, then you win."

12th began to activate the Bird Fu. He didn't want to exhale his Innate Fu Orb completely, so he just kept it in his mouth since luckily the Innate Fu Orb's size can vary. To everyone else, his attack seemed very strange as they only saw him spit a line of red straight out of his mouth.

12th wasn't very satisfied with it. Activating the Bird Fu took far too long, taking close to a minute, so if the enemy had been attacking then he wouldn't even get the chance to activate it.

After the red line shot out of his mouth it expanded, turning into a red, egg-shaped ball. FuYe Chen was so shocked he couldn't help but laugh.

The red ball flew out one foot before suddenly bursting open, and from inside a cute little bird flew out. The little bird squawked as its body grew rapidly in size, turning into a large bird that was a foot long. From egg to bird, it happened within two metres, and was very fast, but everyone who saw could see it clearly felt it very weird.

That bird was very beautiful, possessing jade-green feathers and a long slender body. With a slight flap of its wings, bits of flame started to fall. They looked like tiny stars and as they landed on the ground they gave a small bang as it set the ground aflame while the bird let out a bloodcurdling cry.

FuYe Chen's expression changed and his voice broke as he exclaimed, "True Ancient Fu!" It seemed he didn't dare resist it, retreating rapidly. Impatiently, the Fire Bird moved faster than anything they'd ever seen before, and shot straight towards him, spewing out strings of flame from its long beak. FuYe Chen was so shocked that his hairs stood on end. He touched his waist and immediately a Fu Shield appeared, hiding behind it, the flames that the Fire Bird had shot hit the shield.

Sizzle! Crack!

That stream of flames had burnt through the Fu Shield. FuYe Chen took this opportunity and threw down the broken Fu Shield before touching his waist once more causing a Fu Knife to appear, and with a cry he attacked the Fire Bird.

The Fire Bird called out pridefully, and fanning its wings violently, countless tiny suns flew towards FuYe Chen that looked similar to countless shooting stars falling across the sky, filling the entire cavern with an immense light.

12th was stunned to find that the Fire Bird had already stopped following his commands, and started battling FuYe Chen on its own volition.

FuYe Chen was embarrassed, for he found that he shouldn't touch the stars that the Fire Bird shoots because those things were extremely dangerous, already destroying two high-leveled Fu Weapons, and he was currently holding the Fu Gun that he had just drawn. He knew that he had lost. Forget 12th winning, he'd be lucky if he escaped with his life. Retreating step by step towards the exit, he fired the Fu Gun in his hands and immediately ran.

The Fire Bird turned slightly and dodged, it called out with pride as if it were immensely proud of itself.

12th's spirit shifted a bit, as he inhaled. The Fire Bird squawked like it didn't want to return, but it turned into a thin line of red and returned to the Bird Fu inside.

Luo Zhan's mouth was wide open, staring dumbfoundedly, he couldn't believe what he just saw. After a moment he let out a strange laugh. The other Fu Masters all stared at 12th too, as though they were staring at a strange beast. Xiao Feng exclaimed, "No wonder the Elder says that you're a Demon Child!"

Huo Bao's eyes were filled with respect, asking, "12th, what kind of bird was that? It was so powerful!"

12th didn't answer, he was immersed in immense glee. He understood that this Fu wasn't a matter of can it or can it not still work, instead, it had its own life. After flying out, the Fire Bird could fight on its own, it wouldn't even scatter after it won, but instead flew back into the Fu. He understood now that the four times he can use the Fu actually meant that he can summon four Fire Birds to fight at once, how powerful was that? He didn't dare speculate.

FuYe Chen cried out earlier that it was a True Ancient Fu, 12th couldn't confirm it, but he knew that this Fu was at least of that level. He never thought that with one Fu he could beat a Great Fu Master.

Luo Zhan was laughing when he suddenly spat out a mouthful of blood. He sat down weakly and held his hand to his chest, but his face still had an expression of satisfaction.

12th jumped suddenly and darted to Luo Zhan, holding him up, crying out, "Uncle Luo! Uncle Luo.....come on, stay with me!" He frantically took out a Blood Fu Pill and said, "Quick, eat this!"

12th had quite a lot of healing Fu Pills, he immediately started to treat the injured, namely all five Fu Masters since they each had injuries.

Yan Ge wondered, "12th, how have you got so many Fu Pills?"

12th smiled, "I made them myself, haha, it's quite fun, though I never

thought it'd come in use.”

Yan Ge was stunned, and then he exclaimed, “I’m sold!”

12th wondered, “Uncle Yan, what are you talking about?”

Yan Ge said, “I believe what the Elder says about you, you..... you really are a Demon Child!”

12th didn’t know what to say, but after a while he finally said, “If I wasn’t a Demon Child, we would all be dead!”

Everyone had laughter in their eyes, as Yan Ge said, “12th, don’t fret, it’s a compliment.” After he finished, he couldn’t help but laugh, likewise, everyone laughed as well. They were all laughing heartily, celebrating the fact that they had cheated death.

12th said bitterly, “Stop laughing, we haven’t escaped yet, if FuYe Chen came back in he would use all of the power at his disposal to kill..... We wouldn’t be able to stop him at all.”

Luo Zhan said surprised, “How is that possible? He’s already lost!”

Xiao Feng said, “12th..... I believe 12th’s assumption, FuYe Chen definitely won’t honour his loss, He probably retreated to order his thoughts, he knows our weaknesses and that he only lost because he was caught off guard.”

12th nodded as he thought to himself, “If FuYe Chen comes back in, that will be the end of us.”

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FuYe Chen retreated humiliatingly, he never would have ever guessed that 12th had such a treasure on his person. A True Ancient Fu, even if it's in their possession, is still an incredibly rare treasure, and to appear on the body of a child... What's more frustrating is that that nine year old child could actually use the True Ancient Fu. He truly was a uniquely frightening young child.

FuYe Chen had a look of greed in his eyes as he looked back at the winding tunnel and then turned and left. Back in the cavern he had already examined its layout, it was a dead end, there couldn't be a second pathway, which is why he so easily retreated, so he could plan his actions before he makes a move.

FuYe Ah Da came up to him and asked, “Elder, is everything okay?”

FuYe Chen's mind was still in turmoil, he hissed and snapped, “Fuck off! There were only five Fu Masters and five children in total, and yet so many of you died! You're all a bunch of deplorable idiots!”

FuYe Ah Da was confused, he gleefully asked, “Elder, you've already killed them? Are there any captives?”

FuYe Chen's face immediately flushed with anger, he walked over and slapped him viciously hard, making FuYe Ah Da spin a 180 where he was

standing. He held his face, stunned, unable to speak. He couldn't understand why the old man hit him.

“Just stay fucking here nobody is allowed to leave, don't even talk, just wait!”

FuYe Chen walked over to a hunting chariot and said “Get the fuck out of there!” and a couple of trainees stumbled out, he didn't even glance at them as he crawled into the chariot and sank into his thoughts.

The FuYe clan's trainees stood where they were dumbly, none of them knowing what was wrong. FuYe Ah Da's face clearly showed the imprint of a hand; he was still trying to figure out why the old man would hit him, unless something happened in the cavern? Thinking this, he felt a sense of unease. Was there a Great Master level person in the cavern? That didn't seem right either, if there was such a powerful person, they shouldn't have hid in the cavern to begin with, which was a clear sign of weakness. Try as he might, he just couldn't figure it out.

FuYe Ah Da just couldn't understand, impatiently, he took a step, the moment he wanted to speak, FuYe Chen shouted, “Who said you could move?! Go back to where you were!”

FuYe Ah Da gave up completely, for today the old man seemed to have eaten an Explosion Fu, cussing at people the moment he opened his mouth. He didn't dare talk back at him either, FuYe Chen was the clan elder, and also a Great Fu Master, for a man that powerful, killing him would be the same as slaughtering a chicken. Disheartened he stood back at where he was, not daring to move an inch.

All of the trainees looked like dumb statues, standing there not daring to move, talk or even cough. Each of them had faces in different levels of discomfort, all looking like clay dolls just standing there.

After a few hours, when FuYe Chen sombrely dismounted from the chariot, he said, “Stay still, wait for my return!” He strode towards the cavern, and once inside, in a moment’s notice he had arrived at the last cavern.

12th and the nine other people all sat there. When FuYe Chen arrived before them, 12th stood and said, “In this world, it’s so hard to find someone who honours their promises!” He knew that he couldn’t use the Bird Fu again, the enemy definitely wouldn’t give him enough time, and with his power he could kill them in an instant.

Indeed, FuYe Chen said gravely, “Don’t try to use that True Ancient Fu again, or else don’t blame me if I kill you where you stand!”

Chapter 9: Escape

12th suddenly felt his body slightly tighten as he briefly caught Luo Zhan's eyes and could see him grinning with glee. That was when he knew. He asked, "So, old man, what do you want?"

FuYe Chen said, "Hand over that True Ancient Fu. If you surrender, I can accept you as an attendant, no need for you to be my slave, otherwise..... none of you will get out alive!"

12th said, "Old man, you know full well that destroying this True Ancient Fu is takes just a thought for me. Even though I can't quickly activate it, I can certainly destroy it easily enough."

FuYe Chen knows that 12th isn't bullshitting, but he doesn't know that 12th doesn't have the control needed to destroy a True Ancient Fu. 12th just repeated what he was taught as a bluff.

"Alright, what's your condition?"

12th could feel his body tighten more and more, as if something is binding him tightly, without reacting to it, he continued, "I want..... my companions' safety, you're not allowed to hurt them! Nor are you allowed to make them slaves!"

FuYe Chen coolly said, "Okay, I give you my word!"

12th grinned and said, "Your word... Hell if I believe it! I want your

oath!”

FuYe Chen got angry, “Do you want to die?!”

12th suddenly laughed hilariously, he said, “FuYe Chen! You and your underlings are a bunch of idiots! You’re all stupid! Haha! You’re so old you might as well be dead! How could you not even realise that this was the simplest of stall tactics? You can go to hell..... When I get older I’ll come back here and pay you all back! You stupid old bastard!”

FuYe Chen was stunned, and then he raged. He lurched forward yelling, “I’ll kill you, you little shit!” He thrust his palm forward but something was wrong, the nine people sitting and 12th who was standing suddenly disappeared, as though they dissipated into thin air.

12th’s laughter could still be heard echoing inside the cavern, repeating, ‘Stupid old bastard, old bastard, bastard.....tard.....ard.....’

The ten people completely disappeared. Their time in the Mysterious Land is up and have all been thrown out.

“Argh..... I’m gonna kill you..... You little shit, argh..... grrrrrrrrr..... Fuck you all.....”

FuYe Chen thrashed about in anger, he’s never been humiliated like this before, practically permanently staying several steps behind 12th, not only is he frustrated but he also felt humiliated. Especially because of 12th’s parting words, they frustrated him even more. Poor him for being so old, it’s the first time in his life that he’s been insulted so severely.

When he finally calmed down, FuYe Chen breathed out several large breaths, turned around and exited the cave. He doesn't want to stay there a second longer, quickly getting out of there.

FuYe Ah Da forced out a smile and asked, "Elder, should we send people in?"

Whack!

FuYe Ah Da was on the verge of crying, getting hit just for asking a question? Is the Elder crazy?

FuYe Chen's face was white with rage, he immediately boarded a chariot and said, "Everyone get the fuck over here, we're leaving!" And that's the last thing he said before sitting down pouting in the chariot.

FuYe Ah Da has been beaten multiple times for no reason, now he didn't dare to ask any more questions, he just waved his hand signalling everyone to leave.

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12th and the others all appeared at the place where they first entered the Mysterious Land, in that shallow marsh, as soon as they appeared, they heard, Luo Jie's cheerful laughter.

12th was also incredibly happy, calling, "Master!"

The ground was filled with bodies, all of the Beast Raising Fu Sect. Luo Jie and Qi Nan Shan stood there, saw 12th and the others come out and Luo Jie laughed out loud, calling, “Nan Shan! I knew that 12th would come back!”

12th immediately ran over, and hugged Luo Jie passionately. Now he understood just how much his Master means to him in his heart. Luo Jie smiled, “Good work! 12th, hehe, little did you know, your Grandpa Nan Shan and I killed countless FuYe Clansmen!”

Qi Nan Shan smiled, “We’re apparently barbarians, haha, they took us for uncultured barbarians, people from the lower levels of the FuZhou Land, only suitable to be slaves, haha, we gave them what they deserved!”

12th twisted his head and looked at the bodies, asking, “All these people from the Beast Raising Fu Sect..... Who killed them?”

Qi Nan Shan said, “They also only had these ten survivors, heh, since we bumped into them, we wouldn’t let them go free, conveniently avenging the townsmen that they terrorized.”

Their group of twenty five entered the Mysterious Land, only sixteen successfully made it out, nine of them were captured or killed.

Luo Zhan and the other Fu Masters, saluted Luo Jie, and he said, “Good thing we told you guys to leave, otherwise we would’ve been hard-pressed to escape.”

Yan Ge said, “If it wasn’t for 12th, we wouldn’t be here right now..... We encountered a Great Fu Master, we couldn’t stop him at all.”

Luo Jie put 12th down, surprised, “Great Fu Master?” He knew very well how powerful such a man could be, even if they had five more Fu Masters they would’ve found it hard to hold their ground.

Xiao Feng said, “Let me explain.” He started from when they discovered the chariot, and how everyone entered the cave, and about how 12th instructed everyone to fight, and how they laid traps, and that they had retreated to the last cavern all the way until when 12th beat FuYe Chen in battle. This guy was a great storyteller, his words were dressed beautifully, made 12th seem at least twice as important than he really was.

12th heard it all and slightly shook his head. Luo Jie on the other hand was so proud and emotional that his eyes sparkled, he was shocked at his own disciple’s power. Of course when they mentioned the Fire Bird flying out.

Luo Jie expressed utter amazement and disbelief, asking, “True Ancient Fu? That guy said it was a True Ancient Fu?”

Xiao Feng nodded, saying, “That Fire Bird fought FuYe Chen, who initially was talking big non-stop and saying stuff like ‘if they could make him move then he’d lose, in the end not only did he move, he utterly turned tail and ran.”

Luo Jie couldn’t help but feel a little uneasy, he said, “That’s

troublesome..... He won't accept that loss so easily!"

Xiao Feng respectfully said, "Yeah, 12th said that too!"

Luo Jie nodded, he knows how clever his young disciple was, and also wise too. He continued to ask "So he came back right?"

Qi Nan Shan's face darkened, saying, "If he came back you wouldn't have been able to escape!"

Xiao Feng said, "Initially we couldn't escape, haha, that guy wanted 12th's Fu, so 12th just stalled for time, by that point we all knew that our time in the Mysterious Land was coming to an end, and of course when we started to disappear, 12th insulted that guy a whole lot, haha, when he finally attacked, we all disappeared entirely..... Our luck was truly extraordinary!"

Luo Jie was so excited, he said, "Wow! Did that really happen? Haha, that guy must be frustrated to death, haha, nice going 12th!" He stretched his arm and patted 12th on the head, happily laughing non-stop.

Qi Nan Shan's face was also filled with laughter, this time entering the Mysterious Lands, although losing quite a few people, they also received a whole lot. The Variant Earth Dragon alone was worth all the effort.

They entered the Mysterious Land at the beginning of summer, spent half a year inside, and now it's the middle of autumn.

Luo Jie said, “We should find somewhere to restock our supplies, and also we need to find some warhorses.”

Chen Bing asked, “12th, which way do we go? It’s all trees around here, I think we’re lost!”

12th smiled, “We’re going to the Southern Fu Sect, of course we’re gonna head south..... Don’t worry, Master and the others have lots of experience, even if we don’t know the road, it’s nothing to worry about.”

And so the group headed south.

.....

The city of Qin Guang is the property of the Qin clan. They are the Northern Fu Sect’s most outer clan, with over a million people. The city’s location is very suitable, right next to it is the famous Qing Chang Lake, to the south of it is a border, and beyond the border is a vast expanse of grassy fields, which is owned by the Southern Fu Sect.

T/N: The ‘Q’ in mandarin phonetics is pronounced like the ‘ch’ sound but with less emphasis on the ‘h’. Qin is like half way between ‘tin’ and ‘chin’. It’s quite hard to explain because there is no consonant sound in english that is the same so it’s much easier to listen to it. If you really want to know how to pronounce it, you can probably find a voice recording online.

The border is controlled by the people of the Northern Fu Sect, there are about two thousand Northern Fu Sect people living there, there’s also

the huge commercial trade area, which is on the Northern Fu Sect's most southern area.

The city of Qin Guang is a city of cohabitation, there are people from the Southern Fu Sect, but also people from the Eastern and Western Fu Sects, there are of course also people from the Northern Fu Sect since it is still within the Northern Fu Sect borders.

Not long after Luo Jie and the others got out of the forest that they saw the city. That group walked for a full twenty-one days, the few Fu Masters taking turns to carry the children, the whole journey fleet of foot, it was very exhausting to make it out of the forest. Their resources are practically empty, relying on hunting game to fill their stomachs.

The group finally walked out of the forest, seeing the far away city, 12th asked, "Master, where's that?"

Luo Jie's face revealed a smile as he replied, "We've arrived at Qin Guang! Haha, this road is pretty nice, we've found ourselves a shortcut, much faster than walking a few months on the usual route, haha, too bad we never came this way in the beginning."

Qi Nan Shan lamenting said, "Interesting, last time I was here..... Well it's been a couple of decades at least, that's right, I remember Elder, you had a disciple who lived there right?"

Luo Jie nodded, saying, "I haven't seen him in over thirty years, not sure if he's still living there or not....." He carried a bit of sorrow in his words.

12th asked, “A brother? What’s his name?”

Luo Jie said, “He’s called Qin Han, if he’s still alive, he ought to be a hundred and fifty years old by now, wow, if he’s still alive..... then he probably doesn’t have long left.”

Watching his own disciples die of old age or of other reason, the old guy must feel very sorrowful.

12th consoled him saying, “Brother Qin Han would be very happy to see you Master so let’s go into the city.”

The city gates has a few dozen guards, most of whom are Fu Warriors, there were also some Fu Masters and a Zhou Master. This is a city on the borders, so it’s defenses are very strong.

Luo Jie and the others all arrived at the city gates, and were blocked by the city guards. Once they saw clearly the symbols on these people’s chests, each one of them were stunned speechless. Luo Jie wore a special Great FuZhou Master symbol on himself, Qi Nan Shan wore a symbol of being a Great Fu Master, and everyone else was practically a Fu Master, even on the children’s chests were the symbols of FuZhou Warriors.

Two Great Masters, and a bunch of Fu Masters..... These people must be very frightening, not even the Qin clan has such powerful people. Those guards immediately sent people to report to the Qin Clan, and at the same time inviting them into the city.

Luo Jie asked, “Who’s the Clan leader of the Qin clan?”

One of the Fu Masters replied, “It’s that old man Qin Zhuo.”

Luo Jie nodded, “Are you also part of the Qin Clan?”

That Fu Master pridefully answered, “Yes, my name is Qin Yun, I was trained by the clan to be a Fu Master.”

Luo Jie asked, “There’s a man in your family, not sure if you’d know him though.....”

Qin Yun said, “That’s okay, go ahead, what’s his name, haha, there are a lot of people in the Qin clan, I probably don’t know them all.”

Luo Jie said, “He’s called Qin Han.”

T/N: the ‘zh’ consonant sound is the same as the ‘j’ sound in english. so ‘zhuo’ would be pronounce ‘jew-or’ except the first syllable is a lot shorter so it would be more like ‘jwor’. The ‘u’ in mandarin is always be an ‘oo’ sound so ‘yun’ would be ‘yewn’. (the ‘oo’ vowel sound is too long)

Qin Yun furrowed his eyebrows, thought for a while then apologetically said, “Sir, I’m afraid I don’t know him, I haven’t heard that name before.”

Luo Jie didn’t find this surprising, the Qin clan has a few million people, direct descendants would number at tens of thousands, not knowing one person is not unusual. He said, “Qin Yun, we want to stay at the best inn possible can you recommend us one?”

Qin Yun said, “Elder, you’re a valued guest, how could we let you stay in an inn? I’ve already sent someone back, someone will be here shortly to tend to your arrangements, haha, please could you wait a while longer.”

After about ten minutes of waiting, the sound of horse hooves could be heard off in the distance, a group of soldiers arrived at the city gates, one muscular man hopped off his horse’s back and called loudly, “Who’s are the guests from the Northern Fu Sect?”

12th asked, “Mister, who are you?”

That guy was stunned, asking, “What? You’re a FuZhou Warrior? How’s that possible?”

12th felt offended, saying, “Why is it not possible? Just because it’s rare doesn’t mean it’s impossible!”

Luo Jie patted 12th on the shoulders signalling him to back up, he walked in front and said, “I am Luo Jie from the Northern Fu Sect, and you are?”

That guy looked carefully at the symbol on Luo Jie’s chest, and immediately fixed his posture and mannerisms, politely saying, “I am a deacon of the Qin clan, it’s my duty to attend to guests, haha, my name is Qin Mu, but I usually just go by Xiao Mu.”

T/N: Xiao means ‘small’. It’s commonly used in conjunction with the last character of a person’s name to serve as a pet name/nickname. It’s

gender neutral.

Qin Mu waved his hand, signalling for people to lead the warhorses here, saying, "Please climb on!"

12th's eyes sparkled, remarking, "These horses aren't half bad....." He chose a black horse. In his past life he also had a black horse, although she wasn't as majestic as this one, but in his past life she was still a pretty good horse.

Everyone climbed onto the horses, Qin Mu led the way following the main road.

The Qin clan value Luo Jie and the others' arrivals very highly, two Great Masters, no matter what they need to be tended to properly, arranging the best lodging and the best attendants.

12th was too lazy to greet everyone with his Master, once they arrived at their lodging, he hid in his room alone reading his book, and then trained Huo Bao and the others, using Blood Fu to train, so he won't need to bother with refining Light Fu. He has always thought it important to train his four companions, even in the Mysterious Land while they were fleeing, he didn't neglect it at all.

The grass fields in winter was abnormally cold, the Qin clan brought them many many new clothes, as well as very expensive fur robes and fur hats. Qin Guang is the commercial centre for trading valuable furs, there are mass amounts of businesses here dealing in the trade of fur, therefore all of the items that the Qin clan offered are of the highest quality.

Other than the various furry garments, they also gifted a lot of supplies and food, and also gifted each person three warhorses born and raised in the fields, all of which are brilliant horses of a quality that is rarely seen.

12th especially liked the three warhorses that he was given, after they were gifted, he personally tended to them, fed them, washed them, and grew very close with them. One of the three was the black horse that he chose in the beginning.

Huo Bao and the others also received warhorses, but they didn't love the horses like 12th did, they all had the servants take care of the horses, and would usually learn different attacks and techniques from Xiao Feng and the other Fu Masters.

Today, as soon as 12th finished packing his Hidden Fu Bag, Huo Bao, Hong Shi, Chen Bing and Chen Hong came in. Huo Bao said, "12th, we're going shopping!"

12th waved his hands, saying, "You guys go, I'm busy..... No time, I've still got a book i need to read."

Chen Bing cajoled, "Come on! Let's all go together! It's not every day that we get to come to Qin Guang, if we don't go shopping then it would be such a shame, who knows if we'll get to come back in the future."

Chen Hong joined in, "12th, there are still things that we need to buy."

All of them took turns trying to persuade him, and finally 12th smiled and said, "Alright alright alright, I'll go..... Oh yeah, let's ask the Qin

clan for a guide, that way we can lessen the time wasted trying to find our way around.”

Luo Zhan followed 12th constantly, he's practically become his personal bodyguard, however he's glad to do it, after being with him for so long, he's liking 12th more and more, not only is the little guy very well behaved, more importantly, he's worth protecting. 12th's actions in the Mysterious Land, won over the respect and admiration of all of the Fu Warriors.

Other than Luo Zhan, Xiao Feng was also willing to follow 12th. He specifically asked the Elder, saying he wants to train the four other kids, and so, like Luo Zhan, he's also with 12th.

The Qin clan sent someone, just a normal man, not a practitioner of FuZhou, but he is very familiar with Qin Guang, so it was very suitable for him to be the guide.

The man is called, Qin Zi Lu, he's a tidy, well-presented middle-aged man. He respectfully saluted 12th, knowing that the kid in front of him was extraordinary, not only was he the disciple of a Great FuZhou Master, he's also a nine year old FuZhou Warrior, he's a very respectable person.

Qin Guan was bustling with people and there were countless shops on both sides of the street, there were also large amounts of livestock chariots, especially when the big businesses entered the city, the entire street became densely crowded.

Qin Zi Lu was in front leading the way, occasionally introducing places

to everyone, Huo Bao and the other kids listened eagerly, 12th on the other hand didn't really care all that much, he walked with Luo Zhan and Xiao Feng a few steps behind and spoke quietly.

12th asked, "Uncle Xiao Feng, what's Master busy with these days?"

Xiao Feng replied, "He's meeting with people everyday, I don't know what they're talking about either, although, I don't think we'll be staying here for many more days, I've heard that we're going to leave quite soon, going into the grasslands..... Everyone says that the season isn't suited to go into the grasslands, it's the season for hunting, not travelling, it's soon to be very cold."

Luo Zhan said, "Winter in the grasslands could really freeze you to death."

12th was very sensitive to cold, sighed and said, "That cold huh? Then we ought to buy a lot of fur clothings." He lifted his head and asked, "Mister Zi Lu, where can we buy some fur?"

Qin Zi Lu replied, "Young Master, Qin Guang is renowned for its fur, most of the vendors here sell them, let me take you, not far from here there's a road where they specifically sell fur, all of the shops there are fur shops."

Chen Hong cheered, not being able to contain her excitement. As a young lady, of course she loves shopping, only ever since she was young, she had to work very hard, she practically didn't have any time to even leave the house, even when she does she was always with adults, so she never had a say in anything, all she could do was mindlessly follow. This

time there are no such constraints, 12th isn't going to tell them what to do.

Qin Zi Lu said, "Let's go to this one."

12th lifted his head to see the shop sign, there were three words inscribed on the board – Zhen Pi Fang. He couldn't help but laugh and said, "This is the Qin clan's shop isn't it?"

Qin Zi Lu proudly said, "In Qin Guang, the Qin clan shops are the best!"

T/N: The name of the shop I kept in the phonetic chinese, but the characters individually mean, 'Treasure, Fur, Square'.

12th nodded, the Qin clan had home advantage, owning all of the best resources, having the best stores isn't out of the ordinary either. He smiled and said, "Alright, let's take a look."

The store was very big, as soon as 12th entered the store, he could see many wooden shelves, and bars housing various types of fur, they were all so colourful, very beautiful.

Qin Zi Lu said, "These are the fur hides of common wild beasts, the ones further inside are the better furs, haha, we usually don't bring out the best furs unless we have important guests."

12th was curious so he asked, "The best fur? Is it the hide of a Fu Beast?"

Qin Zi Lu was dumbfounded, he awkwardly smiled, “Young Master, a Fu Beast’s hide..... Nobody in their right minds would sell that! Our best furs would just be the hides of Variant wild beasts, completely incomparable to Fu Beast hides.....” He knew full well how rare and valuable Fu Beasts are.

Little did he know 12th had some Fu Beast hide on his person, he said, “Then let’s go and take a look.”

Qin Zi Lu called a friend and after talking quietly for a bit, the guy looked at 12th and the others and hurriedly ran inside.

Not long after, an old man walked out. Qin Zi Lu hurriedly walked in front, and whispered something. That old man’s face was wide with a smile, he came to 12th’s side and said, “Young Master, I am the owner of this store, haha, welcome! Please! Please take a seat!”

12th said, “It’s an honour!” He could tell straightaway that the Old man is commonfolk.

The shop was even larger deeper inside, what’s different is that here there are no wooden shelves, only very large wooden tables, which were filled with furs, and most of the customers inside were practitioners of FuZhou.

12th felt the fur on the table, nodded and remarked, “This fur is quite nice, very soft nor are there any peculiar smells.

The room was quiet, there were a few customers choosing furs, each one of them had servants following them. Suddenly Chen Hong exclaimed, “Wow! This..... It’s beautiful!”

It was a snowy-white, fox fur scarf, Chen Hong grabbed it and wouldn’t let go, she loved it so much that she continuously stroked it, and then pitifully looked towards 12th. She has no money, even though she’s the one in charge of the little group’s money, it’s not something to spend carelessly, unless 12th agrees to it.

12th said, “Everyone pick what you want, buy what you like, report it to Chen Hong and then pay for it all together.”

In the group, only Chen Hong cared that much about which one she picks, everyone else didn’t really mind, the Qin clan already gifted them a load of expensive furs. As for Luo Zhan and Xiao Feng, are even more uncaring. They had countless hides in their hunts, how could they possibly be interested in these things.

12th brought out a Hidden Fu Bag, retrieved a large piece of hide, it was the hide of a Fu Bear that they hunted in the Mysterious Land, the colour is dark brown. This piece was very big, that Fu Bear was five meters tall. Once he brought out the Fu Bear hide and laid it on the table, the shopkeeper was gobsmacked. He used his shaking hands to feel the needle-like brown fur, warbling, “This..... this..... is a Fu Beast’s hide?”

As soon as the two words ‘Fu Beast’ left his mouth, every customer in the room immediately reacted, each one of them expressing shock and awe in their faces.

Luo Zhan, not understanding his reason, asked, “12th, why did you bring out the Fu Beast hide?”

12th smiled and replied, “I want to use this Fu Beast hide to create a few robes, the grasslands are far too cold, robes made from a Fu Beast’s hide should be able to protect them from the cold.”

Luo Zhan laughed, “That’s far too luxurious!”

12th didn’t care if it was luxurious or not, as long as he doesn’t freeze, he’ll do it no matter how luxurious it is. He asked, “Mister shopkeeper, this piece of hide, can you work on it?”

Before the shopkeeper could answer, someone spoke from behind him.

“Eh? Isn’t that Fu Beast hide? You sell those here? Haha, I’ll take it!”

Chapter 10: Conflict

Three people walked in; the shopkeeper's face changed as he hurried over to welcome them. He said, "Master Wu, haha, my humble shop is honoured by your presence. Please, come in! Come in!"

Master Wu completely ignored the shopkeeper, walked straight to the table ahead, stuck out his hand, and felt the Fu Bear Hide. 12th furrowed his brows and said, "Stop touching it..... For someone your age you sure have no manners!" Luo Zhan lifted his hand and swatted Master Wu's outstretched hand, saying, "Off with you!"

The shopkeeper suddenly broke out in a cold sweat, he didn't know who 12th and the others were, for Qin Zi Lu only told him that they were guests without discussing their identities in detail.

Master Wu, whose full name was Wu Shen Xi, was son of the Southern Fu Sect's representative who lived in Qin Guang, and he was also a famous dandyist in Qin Guang, and because he was also a Beast Zhou Warrior, he was especially arrogant too.

No business or clan wanted to get on the wrong side of the important people from the Four Great Sects, so even if the Qin clan had such a broad influence in Qin Guang, they still wouldn't dare to anger the Southern Fu Sect's representatives. This was not because they were cowards, but because they didn't have the ability; only people from the other sects could.

The shopkeepers pulled Qin Zi Lu to one side and whispered, "What do

we do? This isn't good!"

Wu Shen Xi was angered. He stepped back and held his hand to his waist, this was a Zhou Warrior's typical stance indicating they were about to attack. 12th turned his head, "Uncle Luo, if he dares to attack, just kill him!" he said loudly and clearly.

As such Luo Zhan drew his Fu Knife, stared at Wu Shen Xi and said, "Boy, think this through before you strike, as long as you won't regret it then go ahead!"

Only then did Wu Shen Xi see the symbols on all their chests. He was unreasonably arrogant, but he wasn't stupid. He knew that his opponents were from the Northern Fu Sect, and according to the symbols, they were from the Inner Sect, meaning it would be a bad idea to anger them. He reluctantly said, "I'm here to buy, why are you snatching my things?"

The shopkeeper took this opportunity and hurriedly explained, "That was brought by this young master..... It's not from this shop!"

Slap!

Wu Shen Xi angrily asked, "Why didn't you fucking say so earlier?!"

12th despised guys like this in his past life too, he said, "Are you really trying to be imposing in front of me? Uncle Luo! Get him!"

Wu Shen Xi's chest also had a symbol which showed that he was from

the Southern Fu Sect. Luo Zhan, and the others already disliked people from the Southern Fu Sect. As soon as 12th said it he speedily swung the palm of his hand without hesitation, and with that, he smacked Wu Shen Xi so hard he left him dazed. Only then did the two Beast Warriors next to him react, charging angrily at them.

Xiao Feng smiled, “I. Don’t. Like. You!” He forcefully rushed ahead, swung his leg twice, once at each of them, and both Beast Warriors were kicked far away.

Wu Shen Xi can also see the symbols on Luo Zhan and Xiao Feng’s chests, both were Fu Masters. They both didn’t need to attack, for just one would be enough to eliminate all three of them. He held his face, and defiantly said, “You dare strike me?!”

12th laughed and said, “Uncle Luo, hit him again!” In his past life he’d seen plenty of these types, arrogant and overbearing cowards who bullied the weak, for someone like that, a fierce beating was in order which then solved all problems.

Luo Zhan laughed as he lunged forward, he liked 12th solutions to these problems, they were fucking awesome. Using one hand he grabbed Wu Shen Xi’s collar, and the other slapped him on both cheeks with both forehand and backhand; he struck him so much that the guy’s head was swaying about as a line of blood trickled from the corner of his mouth. Enraged, Wu Shen Xi frantically exclaimed, “You won’t get away with this..... I’m gonna kill you.....”

12th smiled, “Not bad, stubborn..... I like it!” He whipped out a dagger, and in front of Wu Shen Xi’s face he placed it lightly between his eyes, and said, “I can thrust this right through your skull into your brain,

haha. Wanna try it?”

Wu Shen Xi suddenly understood that his opponents were really ready to kill him, and from their smiling expressions to the looks in their eyes, he could sense the stone-cold, murderous intentions. A shiver shot through his brain as he shamefully pissed his pants.

He gulped, and pleaded, “No..... Please..... Please don’t kill me.....”

12th suddenly noticed a pool of liquid collecting at Wu Shen Xi’s feet, which left him stunned. Sighing as he sheathed his dagger, he said, “Uncle Luo, let him go..... Oi! You can leave!” Against such a weakling, he couldn’t be bothered to bully him, so he said in a quiet voice, “Since you know fear..... then why were you so arrogant? Why put yourself through that? Seriously man..... and you even wet yourself? And here I thought you were some kind of bully.....”

Wu Shen Xi wailed as he ran off. Luo Zhan held back his laughter and said, “12th, you’re the bully here.”

12th shook his head smiling and said, “Uncle Luo, I’m a little kid not a little bully, hehe, although I’ll occasionally cameo as a bully, it’s quite fun.”

Luo Zhan didn’t understand what ‘cameo’ meant, but it didn’t hinder his understanding as he said, “That kid though, he doesn’t seem to be older than thirty but he’s already a Zhou Warrior, you should take some care.”

12th said, “Ah whatever, I’m still young..... I misbehave.”

Luo Zhan laughed, for 12th was indeed young, only nine, but not even adults could do what he could.

12th walked over to the shopkeeper, asking, “Are you ok?”

The shopkeeper had tears in his eyes as he said, “I’m..... I’m okay.....” He resented 12th slightly for that, pissing off the Southern Fu Sect’s people meant trouble for him in the future.

12th didn’t know what this guy was thinking as he asked, “Can you please find me the best clothes manufacturer, and use this sheet of Fu Beast Hide to create a few fur coats. Yes, as soon as possible, is two days enough time?”

The shopkeeper bitterly said, “This is Fu Beast hide, it’s not normal wild beast hide it’s different, you need to find specific Fu Masters who can work with this. In the Qin clan we’ve only got Fu Warriors, meaning we can’t work on this type of Fu Beast hide, so it might be best to try another business?”

12th was surprised, “Only Fu Masters can do it?” He understood immediately that Fu Beast hide was extraordinarily sturdy—normal people probably wouldn’t even be able to cut it, let alone work on it—it seemed like he presumed too much. He said, “Nevermind, I won’t bother you any more then.” as he retrieved the Fu Beast Hide.

Suddenly somebody said, “Stop right there!”

This was now the second time. 12th already knew, for in his past life they called it, ‘Wealth, the ultimate motivation’, but here, the precious Fu Beast Hide was even more motivating than wealth. He turned his head and five people walked in, the middle-aged man leading them was infuriated, and on his chests was the symbol of a Fu Master.

12th ignored them, put away the Fu Beast Hide, and held the Hidden Fu Bag tightly in his arms.

The middle-aged man’s face betrayed nothing, and seeing the symbols on each person’s chests, he finally calmed down and calmly asked, “Whose piece of Fu Beast hide is that?”

12th tilted his head, stared at his eyes, and after half a moment he finally said, “Mister, the Fu beast hide is mine. Pray tell.....can I help you with something?”

The middle-aged man was shocked to see the symbol on 12th’s chest—A FuZhou Warrior—he couldn’t help but ask, “Young brother, what’s your name? How old are you?”

T/N: Brother in this sense is more like how monks call each other brothers, rather than two people with a brotherly relationship. Since they are both Fu practitioners, he calls him ‘brother’, it’s also somewhat polite.

12th didn’t care about his young age, sometimes he even thought that being so young had its benefits. He smiled, and said, “My name is Guo 12th and I’m nine years old.”

The middle-aged man was so shocked he looked like he was going to spit blood, he exclaimed, “Nine! A FuZhou Warrior!” He then saw the two Fu Masters and the other four children and became even more unsettled. This child must be of real importance if he’s under the protection of these Fu Masters. He wasn’t as shallow as the shopkeeper, he knew full well how difficult it is to be a FuZhou Warrior at the age of nine, for without having a natural aptitude for it, there would be no chance.

“Haha, my name is Zhu Da Chang, I’m a Fu Master from the Zhu clan’s business. Pleased to meet you!”

12th stared wide-eyed, “Zhu Da Chang? Mister, your name is really..... incredible!”

Zhu Da Chang laughed aloud and said, “Yeah, everyone all say my name is great! Haha.”

T/N: The characters for his name are 朱大昌 which is pronounced exactly the same as 猪大肠 which means Pig’s Large Intestine. Given that this is spoken, 12th doesn’t know which characters are used for his name and therefore assumes the latter which prompts his reaction.

12th thought to himself, *Alright, playing dumb are we? Two can play at this game.....* He smiled and said, “Mister, if there’s nothing else, please excuse us. You get on with your business.” He waved everyone over, turned, and headed for the exit.

“Hey, hey..... Brother Guo, please wait a moment.”

12th grinned slightly as turned, “Oh, Mister Zhu, is something the matter?” His ability to play dumb was astonishing, so much so that Luo Zhan almost couldn’t hold in his laughter. He’d been with 12th for so long, so he knew that the little guy was going to mess with someone again.

Zhu Da Chang felt uncomfortable, how could this kid be this hard to deal with. He forced out a peaceful smile, saying, “That Fu Beast hide I saw earlier, is that yours?”

12th countered, “Yeah, is there a problem?”

Zhu Da Chang smiled bitterly, “No, no problem.....”

Without waiting for him to continue, 12th nodded, smiled and said, “Oh, well if that’s all then great, we’re leaving!”

Zhu Da Chang was both annoyed and impatient as he called out, “Brother Guo!”

12th stood and turned, “My word Mister Zhu, you have to be messing with me.....”

Luo Zhan nearly laughed out loud but instead he made a choked snorting sound but stopped himself in time as he turned his head and tried to force down his laughter. This kid was terrible, irritating that Fu Master beyond belief and not even cracking a smile.

Zhu Da Chang smiled awkwardly as he said, “Um, no it’s, um, I only wanted to..... I wanted to have a look at that piece of Fu Beast hide!” He finally said what he wanted to say, so he felt relieved—keeping it in was too uncomfortable—he was finally able to say it.

“What’s so interesting about a Fu Beast hide? Haven’t you ever seen one before?” asked 12th.

Zhu Da Chang was constantly smiling uncomfortably, he was even a little frightened of this child. A simple rebuttal, yet hit it where it really hurt. It’s not that he hasn’t seen Fu Beast hide before, just he had never seen a complete sheet of Fu Beast hide, for a full sheet of Fu Beast hide must have some series of natural Fu patterns in it, which are utterly priceless. It was one of the best materials for creating Fu Armour.

Zhu Da Chang didn’t want to say that he hadn’t ever seen a complete piece of Fu Beast hide before, so he said, “Haha, of course I’ve seen Fu Beast hide, only I’ve not seen a Fu Bear’s hide before, haha. I’m just curious, nothing bad, haha.”

12th thought for a moment, and thought it wasn’t worth it, Zhu Da Chang has been rather courteous, unlike Wu Shen Xi who was domineering. He was the cowardly bully type of person. 12th smiled and said, “Alright, I can show it to you, although, I hope that you won’t make some unreasonable demands, this sheet of Fu Bear hide is my Master’s.” And in the blink of an eye, this sheet of Fu Bear hide just became his Master’s.

Zhu Da Chang held out his hands and said, “Let me see! Haha!”

12th slightly despised this guy as he took out his Hidden Fu Bag and brought out the Fu Bear hide, saying, “This is the hide from a Fu Bear and it’s relatively complete, take a look! Don’t take too long, I’ve got stuff to do.”

Zhu Da Chang carefully felt the Fu Bear hide, excitedly asking, “Where on earth did you guys hunt this? Wow, it’s so big! I’m assuming you had a Great Fu Master’s help, right?” He flipped the hide and inspected the natural Fu patterns on the skin, continuously asking questions, “A Fu Beast with decent attack and defense capabilities, this hide..... it’s very tough. It’s hard to imagine how you guys managed to hunt such a terrifying Fu Beast.”

12th silently stood next to him not rushing him.

Zhu Da Chang flipped and stared at it many many times, then after a while he finally finished and said, “Amazing! Brother Guo, is there any possibility of you passing on ownership?”

12th smiled, “What do you think?”

Zhu Da Chang grimaced, “Well, that’s hard to say, it depends on your intentions.”

12th asked, “You’re a Fu Master, what do you specialise in?”

Zhu Da Chang’s eyes glimmered, saying, “I specifically craft Fu Armour, and my specialty is creating Soft Fu Armour, haha, this hide is a top tier material for creating Soft Fu Armour!”

12th nodded and asked, “So are you finished?”

Zhu Da Chang said, “Haha, yes I’m done, here.....” He returned the hide, took a step back and stared hopefully at 12th.

12th took the hide back and said, “Well then, we’ll be taking our leave, bye!”

“What? You’re leaving?”

Zhu Da Chang hurriedly chased a few steps, calling, “Brother Guo! Brother Guo!”

12th asked, “Is there another problem?”

Zhu Da Chang was so frustrated he didn’t know what to do, he said, “Surely you must want to use it to create Fu Armour?”

12th seriously nodded and said, “Of course I do!”

Zhu Da Chang perked up and said, “Then allow me! I am one of the best at creating Soft Fu Armour, look! You see? I’m recognised by the Northern Fu Sect as a Fu Master!”

“But..... I have no money! I can’t afford to hire a Fu Master!” 12th said with the utmost seriousness.

Only until now did Luo Zhan realise what 12th was trying to do, he's using the Fu Bear hide as bait.

Zhu Da Chang also knew what 12th wanted, he desperately needs the Fu Bear hide to improve his skills, especially a complete piece, as it contained massive amounts of natural Fu patterns, among which there must be ones that he hasn't seen before. This type of exposure was the best way to improve his Fu Armour creating abilities, so he couldn't pass this up no matter what, even if he knew it was a trap, he would still run into it head first.

“Then..... I won't ask for pay, I'll do it for free!”

12th put on a look of surprise and said, “No way, for free?! Something like that..... It's gotta be too good to be true! You're messing with me, right? Lying to children is bad!”

Zhu Da Chang almost wanted to swear an oath right there, he said, “It's true! If you don't believe me than ask the shopkeeper, the Zhu clan's businesses is very reputable!”

12th couldn't create Fu Armour, but he was a FuZhou Warrior, meaning he knew that creating Soft Fu Armour required massive amounts of materials, which would be very expensive, so he said, “Hmm, I don't believe something this good could happen, if you finish making the Soft Fu Armour and then ask us to pay for it, then I'll be stuck. If that happens you'll ask for the Fu Bear hide as payment, then I won't have anybody to blame but myself.”

Zhu Da Chang was getting light-headed from his frustration as he said, “Fine, not only will I do it for free, I’ll also personally pay for all of the expenses, how about that?”

12th said, “But..... I might have to leave in three days time, so if I give it to you..... how will I get it back?”

Luo Zhan sighed to himself silently, that kid was too devious, not only does he want it free of charge he also wants it to be done quickly. He watched Zhu Da Chang curiously, however he looked at it the guy was like a pig, why on earth would he agree to something so unfavourable? He couldn’t for the life of him understand the greed some Fu Masters have for such remarkable materials.

12th stared at Zhu Da Chang with an expression that seemed to say: ‘If you don’t agree I’m leaving’.

Zhu Da Chang had already been deeply enthralled by the prospect of using the Fu Bear hide to make Soft Fu Armour, so he said, “The time constraint is too tight, hmm, well I have all the materials needed, except I’m missing one thing..... I’ll need you to get it for me.”

12th asked, “What material?”

Zhu Da Chang said, “The blood of the Fu Bear you got this hide from, without it..... I have no way to work with this.” He thought carefully for a moment and said, “I wouldn’t have time to do it by myself, hmm, however it’s not a big problem for I can find a few other Fu Warriors to help, they would be glad to.”

12th asked, “This sheet of Fu Bear hide, how many pieces of Soft Fu Armour can be made from it?”

Zhu Da Chang excitedly said, “That depends on what type of Soft Fu Armour you want—there’s the simple ones, and then there’s the full package.”

12th happily ran through a list, his Master would definitely want one, Grandpa Nan Shan too, as well as the people closest to him like his four companions, Uncle Luo Zhan etc.. After hearing this list Zhu Da Chang’s face paled. He opened his mouth but didn’t know what to say, and after a moment he finally answered, “Brother Guo, although this piece of Fu Bear hide is big, I don’t think it’s big enough for that many pieces of Soft Fu Armour.”

“What, it’s not enough? Then how about making some more chest plates and arm plates, that should be enough, right?”

Zhu Da Chang exhaled deeply, if he were to do it according to 12th’s numbers, then it would be definitely impossible.

12th said, “Uncle Xiao Feng, in a while can you send someone to Mister Zhu’s place, haha, we’ll head on back.” He turned to Zhu Da Chang and said, “Oh yeah, Mister Zhu, where do you live? I’ll send someone over in a while.” He didn’t hand over the Fu Bear hide immediately, instead, he planned to return and then send someone over with it.

Zhu Da Chang was already very satisfied, so he continually gave his gratitude.

Luo Zhan stood to the side, shaking his head, unable to figure this out at all. The poor guy had to pay for everything himself as well as do the job for free, but he was thanking 12th? This world made no sense.

Zhu Da Chang followed behind 12th with an air of reluctance about leaving. He said, “Brother Guo, I’ll come with you and go back to your lodging, haha, you can send someone to follow me back.....”

Luo Zhan was speechless, he sighed continuously in his mind, the audacity of this Fu Master was unbelievable. He’d seen plenty of arrogant Fu Masters in the Northern Fu Sect, but if you had to offend someone best not offend a Fu Master, since they are the ones that create Fu.

Zhu Da Chang brought four underlings who sheepishly followed 12th, face full of smiles. Seeing this Luo Zhan and the others were gobsmacked, it looked like 12th used some kind of secret technique, making a Fu Master follow as though he were brain-dead.

Once the Zhen Pi Fang’s shopkeeper saw them off, he finally relaxed. That kid felt like misery to him, so the sooner it left the better.

Qin Zi Lu asked, “So, young master, where else do you want to go?”

12th stared at Zhu Da Chang, knowing he shouldn’t push his luck too far, and it was best not to be too unreasonable. Since Zhu Da Chang placed his self-respect so low, if he exploited it too much, it would be a bit too mean. He smiled and said, “We’ll go home first, sort out this thing with Mister Zhu.”

Zhu Da Chang said gratefully, “Brother Guo, thank you! Haha!”

Luo Zhan couldn’t bear to watch any longer so he turned away and walked, afraid that he wouldn’t be able to resist hitting Zhu Da Chang. As a Fu Master he lacked so much backbone it was shameful.

In the Mysterious Land, Xiao Feng already respected 12th a lot, but this is the first time that he had witnessed 12th truly mess with someone, unlike Luo Zhan who was angry at the Fu Master’s lack of backbone, he instead respected 12th even more.

The whole group followed the street back to the Qin clan.

At a street corner 12th suddenly laughed and said, “Uncle Luo, a fight’s incoming!”

Luo Zhan raised his head and couldn’t help but smile. Wu Shen Xi clenched his teeth while standing at the street corner. He had about a dozen people, four Beast Masters and a Beast Zhou Master, the rest were all Beast Warriors. This guy seemed to want revenge, however everyone knew that killing was forbidden in Qin Guang, so Wu Shen Xi’s intention was very clear—he wanted revenge against 12th.

The conflict between the Southern and Northern Fu Sects had never stopped; a lot of them were sabotages outside of the city, but even more were like the situation here—brawling. Losing meant insults and humiliation, meaning that even though nobody was killed, it was not much better.

Wu Shen Xi hid behind two Beast Masters, furiously saying, “It’s him! It’s that kid there!” He was afraid to move forward, so he hid behind them and whined.

Luo Zhan and the others felt a wave of hatred. How could a man in his mid-thirties be this wicked? Is this how shameful the Southern Fu Sect is?

Zhu Da Chan asked, “Well, if isn’t it the Southern Fu Sect’s Wu Shen Xi? What do you want?”

12th said, “What else? He’s obviously trying to bully a little kid like me with that group of Beast Masters!” He shouted loudly, “Mister Wu! You sure are fast.....”

Wu Shen Xi yelled with hatred, “Of course I’m fast! Let’s see what you do this time! Haha!”

12th shook his head, calling out, “Mister Wu, I’m not saying you arrived fast! What I’m saying is..... that you sure change trousers fast!”

Wu Shen Xi stuttered, “You..... You..... You little.....”

Luo Zhan, Xiao Feng and the others all laughed hysterically; 12th’s insults didn’t contain a single curse word. Wu Shen Xi was almost crazy with rage, “I’m gonna kill you!” he shrieked.

12th coldly said, “Who are you gonna kill? Who can you kill?”

The Beast Zhou Master stepped forward, saying, “I’m the Southern Fu Sect’s Beast Zhou Master. Kid, you’re from the Inner Sect of the Northern Fu Sect, who’s your master?”

“Who are you to him?” 12th asked as he pointed at Wu Shen Xi.

The Beast Zhou Master proudly said, “*He* is my son!”

Luo Zhan stepped forward saying, “You Southern Fu Sect people are such cowards, your son got hit so here comes with his old man, so fucking disappointing!”

Zhu Da Chang jumped out of his skin, for a brawl between Sects wasn’t something a Fu Master like him could participate in. He hurriedly stepped back, watching nervously.

12th coldly said, “You don’t deserve to know who my master is, and if you’ve got a problem then just come at me!”

That line was more savage than slapping someone. Wu Shen Xi called, “Dad! Look at that arrogance! Dad, avenge me, please.....”

The Beast Zhou Master’s face contorted with rage, he wasn’t angry at 12th, but was actually infuriated with his son. His son was a fucking moron, but he wasn’t.

Luo Zhan couldn’t help but shake his head, he said, “Man, that son of

yours..... Just smack him and leave it at that! It'll save you from coming out here and humiliating yourselves!”

12th laughed with hysteria.